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# electronic GAMES

January, 1985



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## SWITCH ON HOTLINE READER REPLY

### 1985 ARCADE AWARDS

The year's greatest games, chosen  
by a vote of our readers, just in  
time to make your Christmas list!

### 1984: THE YEAR THAT SHOOK GAMING

A look at the hotly competitive  
and rapidly changing electronic  
marketplace, by Editor-in-Chief,  
Anne Kufe.

### TOPS AND FLOPS OF 1984

EG honors some of the more  
overlookable accomplishments in  
the electronic gaming arena over  
the past year.

### WHAT'S NEXT FOR ELECTRONIC GAMING

A forecast for 1985—and beyond.

## COMPUTER GAMING SECTION

### ACTION ARENA 36

*Championship  
Lode Runner  
Battle Zone  
Hideous Bill and  
the Gi-Gants  
Super Pipeline  
Laser Gates/Wing  
War/Quick Step  
Gumball  
Blockade Runner  
Moonsweeper  
Wizard  
SS Achilles—Red Alert!  
Hazard Run  
Zeta-7*

### TRANSLATIONS 42

*Stellar 7  
Questron  
Frogger*

### ARTICLES OF WAR 43

*War of the Worlds*

### PASSPORT TO ADVENTURE 44

*Gothmog's Lair  
Expedition Amazon*

### THINK TANK 45

*Archon II:  
The Adept  
50 Mission Crush  
It's Only Rock 'n Roll  
Bridge 4.0  
Baron  
Intellectual Decathlon  
Planetmaster  
Word Challenge*

### ELECTRONIC PRESSBOX 52

*Computer  
Title Bout*

### ENTERTAINMENTS 53

*Crossword Magic  
Movie Musical Madness  
Peanuts Picture Puzzlers*

### PLAYING IT SMART 55

*Coast-to-Coast America  
Typing Tutor III  
Webster's Numbers*

### HALL OF FAME WINNERS 58

Two more games enter the ranks  
of the great.

### GAME OF THE MONTH 60

An in-depth look at the development  
and gameplay of First Star's new hit  
Spy vs. Spy—based on the Mad  
comic strip.

### GAMES LIBRARY 65



### THE MUPPETS INVADE MICROPOLIS 66

Kantor & Co. use the charm of yet  
another medium—  
electronic educational games!



### ADVENTURE GAMES: Is there Life After Game Over? 70

What to do when you've successfully  
hung up the sword and shield  
and closed the quest book.

### PROGRAMMABLE PARADE 74

*Decathlon  
H.E.R.O.  
Sewer Sam  
Sammy Lightfoot*

### LASER'S LAST STAND 78

A look at why laserline games were  
thought to be the coming thing in  
arcade play—one on the critical list.

### Q & A 82

### INSERT COIN 84

*I, Robot*

### STAND-ALONE SCENE 86

*Kitchen Panic  
Lesson One  
Electronic Learning Aid*

### THE TWELVE DAYS OF GAMESMAS 88

Season's Greetings from all  
of us to all of you!

### COMING ATTRACTIONS 90



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By ARNIE KATZ

## The Secret Life Of Ms. Pac-Man

First, a special welcome to everyone who, thanks to my provocative headline, is reading "Switch On!" for the first time. I'll get to the Inside Lowdown on Bally's celebrated character in a few minutes, but first, I want to discuss something that's been on my mind for awhile.

It's software piracy. I sympathize with gamers who want to run a back-up disk in case the original crashes. And there's also food for thought—and further investigation—in reports from respected experts, EG's own super-techie Henry B. Cohen among them, that complex protection schemes cause disk drives to go out of alignment.

Yet even conceding those points, the case against software piracy looks stronger to me. Piracy is stealing. It robs artists of their just rewards. It depresses research by limiting publishers' return on investment. It inflates software prices by shortening the sales-life of new titles and denying manufacturers and distributors economies-of-scale from higher above-the-counter sales. It hurts quality by removing the incentive to excel, because the

real stick-out programs are the most likely to fall to pirate code-breakers.

So weighing the pros and cons, it looks like a lot of people justify unethical behavior because it's a little more convenient. I mean, most of the folks who illegally copy the latest hit games wouldn't dream of stealing books or paintings.

What's bugging me is that I can't figure out how so many honest people can get involved with something as smelly as software piracy.

After a lot of thinking, I've come to the conclusion that many people become pirates because they don't see the Human Factor. Most pirates think of knocking off a program as a mental exercise, a game. They don't mean to hurt anyone, really. So let me tell you a little story about how software piracy affected one individual electronic gamer.

His name doesn't matter. Let's call him Bill K. Bill is a writer by profession and an ardent electronic gamer. When Bill's Apple-owning friend got *One on One*, Bill was a tiny bit jealous, but he figured an Atari edition must be just around the corner. He commenced to wait.

Well, he waited and he waited. Each morning, he checked his mail to see if this was the day that, finally, finally Electronic Arts would release *One on One* for the Atari. Then came the Commodore 64 version. Bill saw that, if anything, it was even better than the Apple disk. Bill's little heart almost burst with anguish. Finally, after more than a solid year of waiting, Bill K. found happiness with his very own Atari-compatible *One on One*.

And why did Bill K. have to wait like a kid expecting a premium from Captain Video (for two candy bar wrappers and 15 cents for "postage and handling")? EA held back the Atari version of *One on One* because there's a copy program that's so deadly the publisher feared pirates would destroy the entire market for all editions of the game by distributing hot dupes.

So before you rip off the latest computer game, think about Bill K. Don't hurt your fellow gamer.

Oops, looks like I'm out of space for this month. I guess Ms. Pac-Man's secret will have to remain just that—a secret.

G

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January, 1985

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# HOTLINE

Edited By JOYCE WORLEY

## SOFTWARE BEAT

Sergeant Duffy is back for the third time in Infocom's latest text thriller, *Suspect* (most systems). The Sarge helped gamers in *The Witness* and *Deadline*, but in *Suspect*, he's ready to put you in handcuffs. The gamer, playing the role of

interactive adventures. Assume the role of the hero or heroine, then "live" the adventure, complete with graphics, sound effects, and music, as you decide how to find Oz, or how to survive on a desert island. There are six



F-15 STRIKE EAGLE (MICROPROSE)

a newspaper reporter, must make a convincing show of innocence to avoid arrest, as well as figure out who committed the crime. . . *F-15 Strike Eagle* (MicroProse/Atari, C-64) puts gamers in the seat of an Eagle, in a simulation of modern air warfare. Three-dimensional graphics, computer-assisted targeting, radar, air-to-air missiles, ground target bombing, aerobatics and multiple combat scenarios make this a hot action game for armchair pilots with the print stuff. . . Windham Classics, a new line from Spinnaker Software (Apple, Atari, C-64, IBM) turn classics of literature like "The Wizard of Oz" and "Swiss Family Robinson" into in-

masterpieces on the drawing board, including *Gulliver's Travels*, *Treasure Island*, *The*



BELOW THE ROOT (SPINNAKER)



*Wind in the Willows*, and *Below the Root* (based on the Green Sky trilogy). . . *Panzers East!* (Avalon Hill/C-64) recreates the eastern front during WW II. The gamer takes the role of the German commander to direct the Axis invasion force in the 24-week limit, while trying to block partisan activity, conduct an air war, and fight Mother Russia's mud and snow. . . *Robots of Dawn* (Epyx/Apple, Atari, C-64) stars Elijah Bailey, the famous detective from Isaac Asimov's novel, seeking to find the murderer. The player and on-screen characters interact through conversation

as 'Lie' Bailey probes and questions, trying to solve the crime. Every game is different, due to built-in plot twists that vary each investigation. . . *MillionWare*, by BrainBank (Apple) has more than 1200 questions in over 40 categories, each with odds to choose from. Players start the game with \$10,000, then wager any amount and get monetary returns for correct answers. The disk is completely self-tutoring, with all instructions on screen. The trivia game was developed by the same people who created *Murder By The Dozen* for CBS. . .

### MAD JOINS FIRST STAR FOR SPY VS SPY PROMO

First Star is going Mad (Mad magazine, that is) over its promotion for *Spy Vs Spy*, a national grand prize drawing. To register, mail in an entry blank (available at software dealers) before December 31, 1984. A drawing on Jan. 31, 1985, will select the winner of a trip for two for three days and two nights in the Big Apple, where they'll meet the staff of Mad Magazine and have their caricature drawn to appear in Mad. In addition, the first 1000 customers sending warranty cards will get free subscriptions to Mad magazine.

### EARLY ARKIE CONTENDERS

By general consensus the electronic gaming year starts with the annual flood of holiday season releases and ends on the eligibility deadline for Arkie nominations at the end of September. A feature else-



EARTHLY DELIGHTS (DATAMOST)

where in this issue fully describes the games which have won the 1985 Arkies, but EG's software cabinets are already bursting with new titles. Some of these, the editors believe, have what it takes to compete for a 1986 Electronic Games Design Award. It doesn't make a bad last-minute software shopping list, either.

So here are EG's picks as early line favorites to be in the Arkie race when the gaming public votes again next fall:

*Adept* (Electronic Arts/Atari, C-64), *Championship Boxing* (Sierra/Apple, PCjr), *Championship Loderunner* (Broderbund/Apple, C-64), *Earthly Delights* (Datamost/Apple), *Fifty Mission Crush* (Strategic Simulations/Apple), *Ghostbusters* (Activision/C-64), *Impossible Mission* (Epyx/Atari, C-64), *King's Quest* (Sierra/Apple,

PCjr.), *PO* (Suncom/C-64), *President Elect* (Strategic Simulations/Apple, C-64), *President's Choice* (Spinnaker/PCjr), *Raid on Bungeling Bay* (Broderbund/C-64), *Raid Over Moscow* (Access/C-64), *Realm of Impossibility* (Electronic Arts/Atari), *Robots of Dawn* (Epyx/C-64), *Sky Fox* (Electronic Arts/Apple), *Spy vs. Spy* (First Star/C-64), *Suspect* (Infocom/Most systems), *Trivia Fever* (Professional Software/C-64), *Tycoon* (Blue Chip/Most computer systems) and *USA Adventure* (First Star/Most computer systems).

### ENTERTAINMENT SOFTWARE SELLS MORE THAN OTHERS

The latest sales figures of computer software show that entertainment still leads all other categories, accounting for over 60% of home software sales. Entertainment software sales in 1983 totaled \$287 million; this figure is expected to hit \$1.5 billion by 1987.

Educational software accounts for approximately

20% of home sales, while productivity, home business/management and miscellaneous software make up the balance, according to information compiled by Link Resources and Video Marketing Surveys & Forecasts.

### STICKYBEAR GETS A NEW CAVE

Optimum Resource, Inc., developer of the famous Stickybear software published by Xerox Weekly Reader



Sticky Bear's new "den."

Family Software, is setting up residence in the former Norfolk (Ct.) Railroad station. The stone building has been renovated to accommodate the high-tech operations of Optimum Resources, and (we presume) is stocked with enough honey to keep the lovable bruin happy.

### CASH GRANTS FROM ADAPSO FOR COMPUTER STUDENTS

For the third year, the Association of Data Processing Service Organization (ADAPSO) awarded money for education to computer science students. ADAPSO, an organization of companies in the computer industry, chose the winners based on academic and personal achievements, faculty recommendations and financial need. The awards ranged from \$250 to \$1200. Jerome Dreyer, president of ADAPSO, said, "There is a shortage of qualified individuals entering the computer services and software industry, and ADAPSO'S Fellowship/Grant Program is aimed at alleviating this shortage while providing outstanding personnel for our industry."

The deadline for students to apply for the 1985/86 ADAPSO grant is April 30, 1985. For information and applications, write ADAPSO, 1300 N. 17th Street, Suite 300, Arlington, Va. 22209.

### REACH OUT AND TOUCH SOMEONE'S COMPUTER

The American People/Link, a new videotex service from American Home Network, plans to focus primarily on

family entertainment, games and conversation. People/Link, claiming to be the first nationwide recreational videotex network compatible with all personal computers, will offer a variety of features, including: tele-conferencing, so users can communicate privately or in groups; a channel for hobbyists to form clubs, hold meetings and trade information via computer; an electronic bulletin board; electronic mail; and a game channel for individual or competitive play among members. People Link will feature public domain games such as chess, checkers, blackjack, poker, backgammon and bridge. In the future, People/Link plans to expand its services to include banking and shopping channels.

American Home Network president Merrill Millman explained, "Many (personal computers) are used only to balance checkbooks and do taxes. We intend to provide a full range of leisure time recreational uses for the family computer at low connect-time fees." His brother Jules elaborated, "We want to... bring people together with people, no matter what their interests or what type of computer they own."





## BENFORD NAMED TOP TECHIE

Tom Benford, whose written and photographic contributions have graced the pages of *Electronic Games* for several years, has joined the staff as Technical Director. As part of his duties, Tom will be authoring the monthly "Test Lab" column, producing a range of hardware-oriented features and providing a little technical back-up for the always harried Game Doctor.

## SEMICONDUCTOR SALES UP

According to the Semiconductor Industry Association, world sales of semiconductors will total roughly \$26.3 billion in 1984, up 48% from 1983.

## WHAT'S HOT

From the steamy streets of the big city to the air-conditioned cool world of home computing comes electronic breakdancing! By booting up *Breakdance* (Epyx/C-64) or *Break Street* (Creative Software/C-64), even a lackadaisical layabout can thrill to the vicarious experience of whirling around like a modern-day dervish.

*Breakdance*, created by Beck-Tech, is an action-strategy game in which the player or players enters dance moves with the joystick. *Break Street*, the invention of 3-2-1 Software, gets more



BREAK STREET (CREATIVE)

# HOTLINE

physical, testing the gamer's ability to make smooth transitions between the moves.

And now that we've got video breakin', can computer bellydancing be far behind?

## CBS SIGNS FRAGGLE ROCK

CBS has been granted exclusive world-wide rights for home computer programs based on Jim Henson's "Fraggle Rock." The children's television series, seen in the US and Canada, will be the basis of a series of entertainment/educational software titles for kids 7-12 years old, to be released this year.

The Fraggles are Muppet characters who get by on their wits, singing, dancing and in general living it up, while their neighbors, the Doozers, build edible crystalline structures. A family of giants living nearby, the Gorgs, provide the spark for Fragglish adventures by trying to capture the fun-loving Muppets.

## EDU-BEAT

Dr. Seuss Fix-Up The Mix-Up Puzzler (Coleco/Adam, ColecoVision) uses Dr. Seuss

characters in an electronic jigsaw puzzle. Players choose from five levels of complexity, starting at a level easy enough for pre-schoolers, then mix and match puzzle pieces to create scenes. The *Electronic Flashcard Maker* (Coleco/Adam) lets computerists make up to 30 decks of flashcards, each with a maximum of 200 cards with 25 words per side. Use it for learning



any lesson, or to create trivia games. The computer keeps track of wrong answers, making this a good study tool. 9-5 Typing (Epyx/Apple, Atari, Adam, Commodore, and IBM) is a typing tutor especially for women. It takes basic typing skill drills (over 49 in all), then combines them with sequences from the movie, as typists help Doralee escape from the foul-minded Hart. Survey Taker (Scholastic/Apple) lets kids 9 and over take surveys and print out the results on bar and table graphs, as they learn research and planning skills, and get facility in handling simple statistics.

## GROLIER PREMIERS EDUCATIONAL GAMES

Grolier Inc., the world's largest encyclopedia publisher, has formed a subsidiary dedicated to publishing computer software. The first titles, which will run on the Apple IIc and IBM-PC, are *Friendly Filer*, an introduction to data-

base management for children; *Easy Graph*, an educational aid; and a series of book-and-program packages themed to adventure games.

Each of Grolier Electronic Publishing's *Adventures In Knowledge* programs encourages children to read in order to solve the adventure. In *Secrets of Science Island*, kids use the enclosed science-fact book to answer questions that help them continue on their journey, while *Treasure Hunter* is a quest for buried treasure. To solve it, the child must refer to the enclosed fact book about historical explorers.

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Michael DiJulio—Chicago, Illinois

"You have an excellent machine for the home user. Smart LOGO and Smart Filer are excellent...Smart Keys make it very easy to use the software, even before you read the instructions completely."

Wayne Motel—Dyer, Indiana

"Your keyboard is better than the Apple.\*"

Donald Prohaska—San Diego, California

"I find the word processor and the basic programming language to be very user friendly."

Gordon R. Franke—Kirkville, Missouri

"I am more than pleased with the operation of the machine, and not having any experience with computers, I am happy that finally someone has produced a machine not only at a reasonable cost, but one that you can nearly sit down and start using without any training period."

Frederick A. Tripodi—New York, New York

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## DESIGNWARE GOES TO THE PEACHES

Management Science America (MSA), the parent company of Peachtree Software, has acquired DesignWare. DesignWare products will continue to be marketed under that name, through MSA's Peachtree Division.

Designware was founded in 1980 by Jim Schuyler, and has eleven educational titles

# HOTLINE

in its catalog. All products are available for Apple, Atari, C-64, IBM-PC and PCjr computers, including the two hits **Spellicopter** and **Crypto-Cube**.

tional cartridge to show users what the machine can do and how it works, all for around \$100. BASIC is built in, as are two joystick ports, and a cartridge slot. The computer also has its own family of peripherals, including both cassette and disk drives and printer. The C-16 is not software-compatible with other Commodore computers.

icator... The Commodore 16, an entry-level computer with 16K RAM and 32K ROM, comes with an educa-

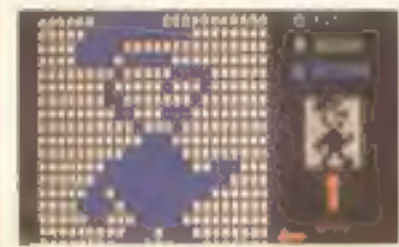


## CONSUMER BEAT

Scholastic's award-winning geography game, **Agent USA**, is now available for most popular computers, including Apple, Atari, Commodore, and (most recently) IBM-PC and PCjr. Designed by Tom Snyder Productions, players

on data modems by 14% to 25%. The new price for Model UDS 103LP, a 300 bps modem powered from the phone line and requiring no AC power, is \$125. CBS Software has reduced prices for seven pre-school kideo

modify the character's position, and store poses in frames to create animation sequences up to 128 frames. While drawing the image on-screen, the program automatically converts the graphics into computer code, then displays the code on screen, all without the user knowing how to program... Video Peripherals' HS-15 Tournament Master joystick features dual,



LITE SPRITE (TECH SKETCH)

independently wired, arcade-sized fire buttons 6 inches apart, and a regulation joystick with ridged gripper ball. The controller works with Atari, Commodore 64 and ColecoVision systems and a left/right switch allows for operation with either hand. An input port on the side accepts a Coleco numeric controller, so the HS-15 never has to be unplugged. Atari users get an added feature — an auto-fire control knob, with an LED auto fire rate in-



AGENT USA (SCHOLASTIC)

must learn time zones, location, capital cities, and names of states to beat the Fuzz-Bomb menace threatening the land... Universal Data Systems has reduced the price



SEA HORSE HIDE 'N' SEEK (CBS)

thrillers, including **Ducks Ahoy**, **Sea Horse Hide 'N' Seek**, **Big Bird's Funhouse**, and other Sesame Street titles, and for seven learning and amusement games, including **TimeBound**, **Math Mileage**, **Movie Musical Madness**, and **Halftime Battling Bands**. K-tel International has filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of Federal Bankruptcy Code, but the good news is that K-tel Software is unaffected by this move by its parent company... Future Computing, a research analysis firm, projects that the personal robot industry will grow more than 100% an-



The HS-15 Tournament Master from Video Peripherals.

nally for the next six years, to a total of \$2.2 billion by 1990... the computer version of **Monty Plays Scrabble** has a new home. A version of the world's most popular word game will be distributed exclusively by Epyx. The game, formerly marketed by Ritam, provides a computerized opponent in four skill levels, with a playing vocabulary of over 12,000 words... The International Computer Orphanage wants to help orphan microprocessors find computer-less homes. The company will find new homes for unwanted computers, then the former owners receive cash and credits when their old machine is "adopted." People seeking machines can try them out for a few days, weeks or months on a low per-diem cost basis, or opt to make the adoption permanent. An international communications network and database matches homeless computers with persons seeking equipment. The company also has openings for Computer Orphan Agents, people licensed by ICO to locate and help place an orphan computer in a new home, who then receive a fee for services. Give them a call at 1-800-387-8244, if you've got a machine you don't want anymore, or if you'd like to offer a good home to an orphan computer.

## APPLE, SCHOLASTIC SEARCH FOR STORYTELLERS

Scholastic and Apple Computer Corp. are jointly sponsoring a contest for students, based on the **StoryTree** writing program designed by George Brackett. Writers must submit a story composed with **StoryTree**, using the program's branching feature. The companies will award prizes in Elementary (grades 4-6), Junior (grades



STORYTREE (SCHOLASTIC)

7-9) and Senior (grades 10-12) categories. The grand prize in each category is a \$1000 scholarship or an Apple IIc computer, and the winning student's classroom will receive an Apple IIc computer. Additional prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100 will be awarded in each category. Entries must be received by April 1, and the winners, selected by a panel of educators and authors, will be announced in May.

## SCHOLASTIC CONTESTS OFFER IRON HORSE, METAL MEN

Scholastic has a couple of unique prizes for the company's contests this winter. One features a trip by train, while the other promises to present a team of winners with a team of robots.

In the **Agent USA** contest, gamers have to locate the FuzzBomb and read the message that appears on the screen when the menace is defused. Winners send Scholastic this message, and the time it took to find and disarm the bomb, to participate in a drawing. The Grand Prize Winner, accompanied by two family members, gets to ride the iron horse to Washington, D.C., for an official tour of intelligence headquarters and the White House.

Gamers finding a special



BANNERCATCH (SCHOLASTIC)

stamp inside the **Agent USA** package can get prizes by submitting the Instant Winner stamps along with a letter telling what they like about the game. The company will award 500 **Agent USA** knapsacks to the best writers.

In a second contest, Scholastic is hunting for a team of gamers to defeat Max and five levels of robots in **Bannercatch**. Those unmasking Max will be eligible for a national drawing, and the winners will receive a set of

programmable, talking robots.

Both contests are restricted to gamers under age 18, and

end on March 15. Entries must be received before March 31 in order to participate in the drawing.

## COIN-OP BEAT

Bally has acquired the Sente Arcade Computer interchangeable game system "because the company believes the interchangeable game system is the way of the future," according to Bally Sente President Robert Lundquist. The company is working on a library of SAC games,

It translates roughly 4000 English words into the target language, and the same number of foreign words and phrases into their English equivalents. Punch in the first two letters, and use search keys to electronically scan the dictionary and locate the word. Then touch a button for



From the left: Brad Marsoobian, arcade manager; Kipp Howard, the winner; and Dave Anderson and Ken Wagener of Bally Sente.

so arcade owners can turn an old game into a new one by changing a cartridge, control and graphics panels. One familiar person working on the project is Dennis Koble, who won design awards while with Imagic and was recently named Director of Software.

Over 200 gamers competed in a **Snakepit** videogame contest at Fashion Fair Mall in Fresno, Ca., on August 2. The contest was sponsored by Bally Sente and radio station Y94 FM. Kipp Howard won \$940, amassing 262,325 points. Ron Fox and Jim Standow, second and third placers, won tours of Yosemite Valley. Seven other **Snakepit** survivors were treated to dinners for their high scores.

## PARLEZ-VOUS COMPUTER?

Planning to go abroad this year? What you'll need while strolling through the streets of Paris (or Berlin, or Madrid) is a Langenscheidt Translator 8000 (\$69.95 in most stores.)

the correct translation. There's an option to store up to 16 sets of your own special words — this will make it easy for arcaders to locate the nearest gaming parlor.

The vest-pocket wonder contains a 48K memory, and, to help travelers convert their dollars to francs or marks, a four-function calculator. It currently comes in Spanish, French and German versions, with more languages planned.



The Langenscheidt translator



## UPTOWN SOFTWARE WANTS TO THROW A PARTY

Uptown Software, founded by two party-loving women, is concentrating on the social scene for its line of computer games. After surveying the action game market, Sheila Dubman and Dominika Spetsman decided to produce software especially for adult gatherings. Although the games can be played solitaire, they're designed for group play in party-like settings.



The first triad of games from the new firm include **Compuzzler**, a game of strategy based on an enhanced interactive crossword puzzle. One to four teams build word chains and attempt to block each other's progress as the clock counts down. There's even a way to cheat by peeking at any square's letter, but the computer deducts points for this in tallying the score.

**Double Crostics** lets the players use isolated clues to find words. The jumbled letters form a familiar quotation when sorted and the computer keeps track of wrong letters on a running error count, in what the company calls the ultimate crossword puzzle challenge.

Uptown is also introducing a trivia game with a multiple choice answer format. Teams spin a wheel to pick one of six categories, and the team with the fewest errors wins.

## SMITHSONIAN GETS VIDEOGAMES

The Smithsonian National

# HOTLINE

Museum of American History has accepted a video jukebox and four coin-operated electronic games for its collection. The machines, donated by their makers to mark "High Tech Week," were **Slartime**, by Video Music International (the first video jukebox, 1978); **Pong** by Nolan Bush-

thus closing a chapter of gaming history. David Gottlieb introduced the first successful coin-operated pinball game, "Baffle Ball," in 1930. His son, Alvin Gottlieb, pioneered the incentive of winning a free game for high scores in 1960. The advent of high-tech gaming brought the introduction of many top-grossing Gottlieb/Mylstar machines into arcades, including last year's mega-hit, **Q\*Bert**. However, more recently, the company's laserdisc game **M.A.C.H. 3** won critical acclaim, but failed to win the distribution needed to make it a financial success in the arcades.

Explaining the company's decision, Francis Vincent, Jr. said, "After a careful review of the industry, we have determined that the coin-operated amusement games business does not offer us appropriate growth opportunities without substantial

additional risk capital." Mr. Vincent went on to praise the efforts of the Mylstar management and employees, saying, "Our decision not to continue there is the result principally of adverse market conditions and the persistent deterioration of the markets for our products."

## ACORN SPROUTS AMERICAN BRANCHES

Acorn Computer Corp., which currently accounts for 85% of the British educational computer market, has started distribution of machines on this side of the Atlantic. The company is currently shipping about 2000 Acorn BBC model micros in the US per week, and estimates its American market share at 1%. Acorn sold over 180,000 computers in England and currently boasts more than 300 educational software titles. Additionally, Acorn has agreements with over 30 U.S. software companies for new programs to be distributed through its new U.S. branch in Woburn, Massachusetts.

nell (the first electronic videogame, 1972); **Pac-Man** by Bally/Midway (the most popular videogame to date 1980); **Sharpshooter II** by Game Plan (a solid-state pinball game, 1983); and **Dragon's Lair** by Starcom (the first laserdisc game, 1983).

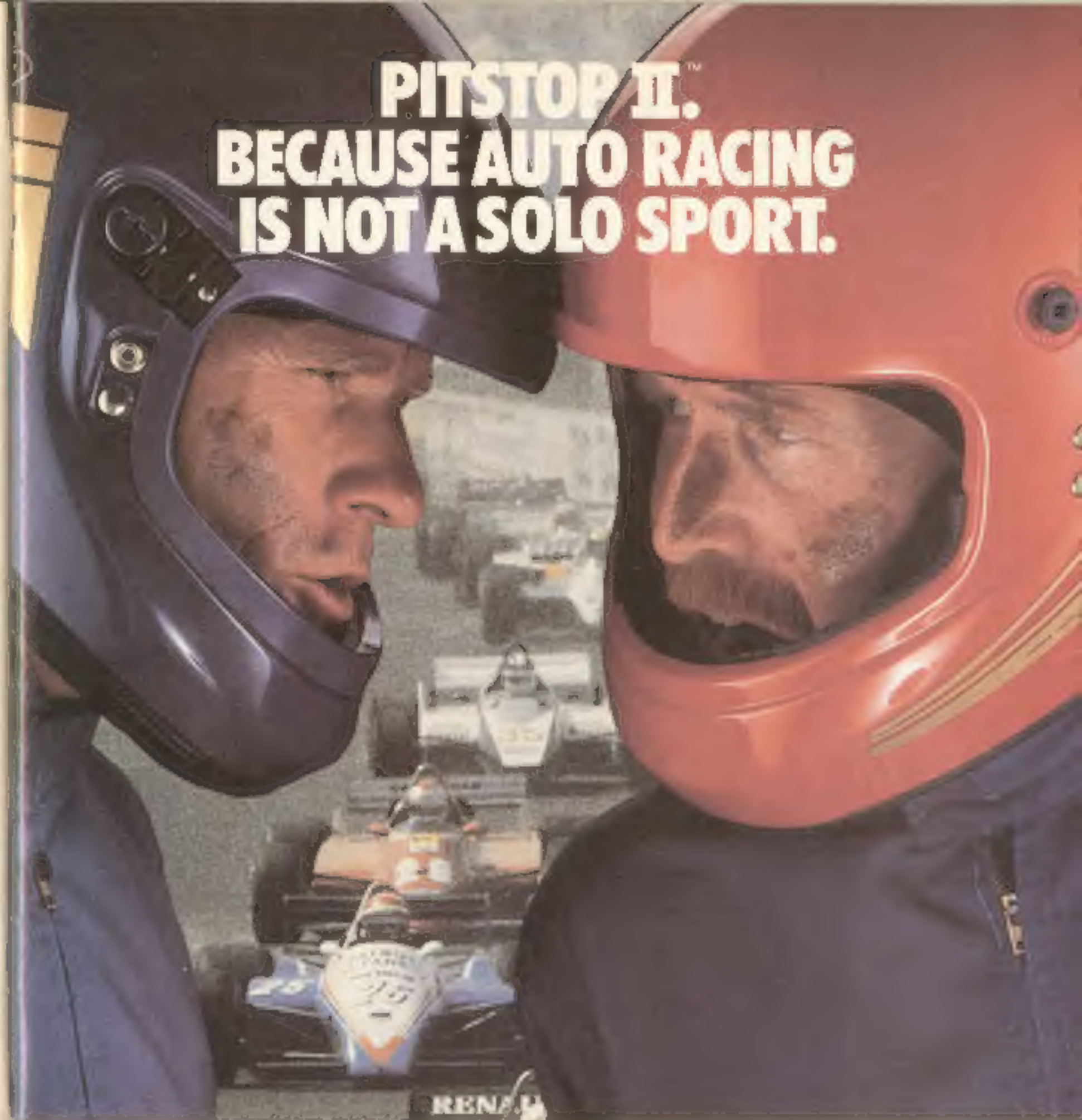
Other machines in the museum's collection include a Jennings Sportsman pinball game (1931), a 1946 Wurlitzer jukebox, and an Edison Kinetoscope (1893). The museum also houses several antique slot and vending machines, a penny scale, and several models of pay telephones.

## GOODBYE Q\*BERT—MYLSTAR CEASES OPERATION

Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc. closed the doors of Mylstar Electronics (formerly Gottlieb & Co.) at the end of September, and ceased design and manufacture of coin-operated amusement games,



# PITSTOP II.™ BECAUSE AUTO RACING IS NOT A SOLO SPORT.

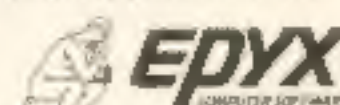


When we introduced Pitstop, we created action in the pits. Now, with **PITSTOP II**, EPYX introduces true competitive auto racing, both on the track and in the pits. Auto racing is not a one man sport. With **PITSTOP II**, you can now experience the thrill of speed and competition as you battle your opponent in a race against the clock. Now, more than ever, the strategy of when you make a pit stop and your pit crew's speed and performance, combined with your skill on the track, will determine the winner.

A split screen shows you your position and that of your

opponent, a digital clock displays time and a lap counter gives you your race position as you race against each other in pursuit of the checkered flag. You can also play against the computer and take a practice lap or race against the computer controlled pace car as you prepare for real head-to-head competition. Step up to **PITSTOP II** because auto racing is not a solo sport.

One or two players: joystick controlled.



Strategy Games for the Action-Game Player





## COMING EVENTS

**COMPU-CRUISE;** Dec. 15-22. This computer conference at sea sails to the Western Caribbean. The seven-day event features several computer rooms, instructive seminars, product demonstrations, and hands-on experience. Prices for the cruise aboard the ms Nieuw Amsterdam of the Holland American Cruise Lines start at \$1195, including all meals, accommodations, entertainment, and round-trip air fare from 80 U.S. gateway cities. Write Compu-Cruise, 1500 Valley River Dr., Suite 315, Eugene, Or. 97401, or call 503-341-1032 for more information.

**INTERNATIONAL SOFTWARE UPDATE,** Feb. 16-20, 1985, Waiohai Resort Hotel, Kauai, Hawaii. For information, contact Raging Bear Productions, 21 Tarnal Vista Dr., #175, Corte Madera, CA 94925, or call 415-924-1194.

**MARYLAND COMPUTER SHOW & SOFTWARE EXPO;** March 22-24, 1985, Convention Center, Baltimore, MD. Write to CompuShow, Box 3315, Annapolis, MD 21403.

**NYC PERSONAL COMPUTER SHOW #5;** March 29-31, Madison Square Garden, New York City. Open to the public, the show features exhibits of hardware and software. Write Ken Gordon Productions, PO Box 13, Franklin Park, NJ 08823, or call 201-297-2526 for information.

**INTERNATIONAL PERSONAL ROBOT CONGRESS & EXPO;** May 15-19, 1985, Albuquerque, NM. For more information about this show for robot enthusiasts, write Robotic Industries Assn., P.O. Box 1366, Dearborn, MI 48121, or call 313-271-7800.

**NEW YORK COMPUTER SHOW & SOFTWARE EXPO;** April 25-28, 1985, Nassau County Coliseum, Long Island, NY. Write to CompuShow, Box 3315, Annapolis, MD 21403.

**VIRGINIA COMPUTER SHOW & SOFTWARE EXPO;** April 25-28, 1985, Pavilion, Virginia Beach, VA. Write CompuShow, address above.

## EG Readers Pick Their Favorite Games

### Most Popular Computer Games

Position This Month	Last Month	Times on List	Game	System	Manufacturer
1	9	15	Miner 2049er	Most Systems	MicroFun
2	—	2	Donkey Kong	Atari	Coleco
3	3	5	Buck Rogers	Most Systems	Coleco/Sega
4	—	15	Choplifter	Most Systems	Broderbund
5	11	5	Flight Simulator	Most Systems	SubLogic
6	5	2	Q*bert	Most Systems	Parker Brothers
7	—	5	Lode Runner	Most Systems	Broderbund
8	1	4	Zork I	Most Systems	Infocom
9	—	New	Summer Games	Atari, C-64	Epyx
10	—	New	Zaxxon	Most Systems	Datasoft/Synapse
11	—	2	Pole Position	Atari, C-64	Atari
12	4	2	Donkey Kong Jr.	Atari	Coleco
13	—	New	Ultima III	Most Systems	Origin Systems
14	—	New	Ms. Pac Man	Atari, C-64	Atari
15	—	New	Frogger	Most Systems	Parker Bros./Sierra



### Most Popular Videogame Cartridges

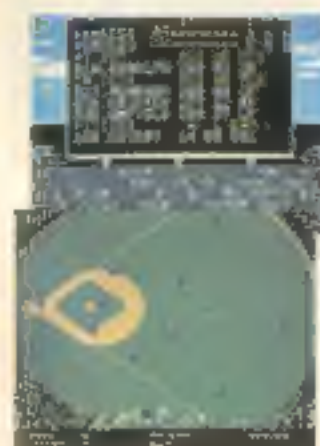
Position This Month	Last Month	Times on List	Game Title	System	Manufacturer
1	6	5	Pitfall II	Atari 2600	Activision
2	—	4	Q*bert	Most Systems	Parker Bros.
3	—	2	Super Action Baseball	ColecoVision	Coleco
4	2	7	Joust	Atari 5200	Atari
5	—	7	Miner 2049er	Atari 5200	Micro Fun
6	15	6	Decathlon	Atari 2600	Activision
7	—	5	Mr. Do!	ColecoVision	Coleco
8	—	4	Space Shuttle	Atari 2600	Activision
9	—	New	War Games	ColecoVision	Coleco
10	—	14	River Raid	Atari 2600	Activision



### Most Popular Coin-Op Videogames

Position This Month	Last Month	Times on List	Game	Manufacturer
1	6	9	Star Wars	Atari
2	—	7	Dragon's Lair	Starcom
3	9	11	M.A.C.H. 3	MyStar
4	—	4	Pole Position II	Atari
5	—	2	Space Ace	Starcom
6	2	8	Track & Field	Konami
7	3	4	Crossbow	Exidy
8	1	7	Spy Hunter	Bally/Midway
9	—	2	Crystal Castle	Atari
10	5	2	Punch Out	Nintendo

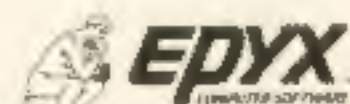
THE WORLD'S GREATEST BASEBALL GAME.  
THERE'S MUCH MORE TO WINNING THAN JUST PITCHING,  
HITTING & FIELDING.



Real baseball is more than just hitting, pitching and fielding. It's also your favorite major league teams, the great stars of today and the All-stars of yesteryear. It's statistics and coaching, and it's managing your own game strategy. With the World's Greatest Baseball Game, you have it all. Pick your major league line-up using the actual player and team stats. Then watch the action unfold against an opponent or the computer.

Two modes let you choose between managing and controlling your team or managing only. The World's Greatest Baseball Game—everything you could ever want except the hot dogs and peanuts.

One or two players; joystick controlled.



Strategy Games for the Action-Game Player







## BREAKING IN COMPUTER GAMES

I am a proud owner of an Apple IIe computer, but I'm desperate because my father thinks that games for the computer can break it, so he doesn't get me any. Can you please convince him that a game won't hurt the computer?

Dower Chin  
New York, NY

Ed: Tell your father that computer games can no more harm a computer than rock and roll records can harm a stereo. A computer game is a program, just like Lotus 1-2-3 or Bank Street Writer. Once a program has been booted, the only parts of the computer that players generally touch are joysticks, other controllers or the key board board. And Mr. Chin, computer games provide at least some educational value, whether they reinforce hand-eye skills, logic and problem-solving, or even just provide your son with the incentive to read (as in text adventure games).

## COMPARING APPLES AND ORANGES (OR C-64's)

A big congratulations for the Translations section. I purchased Avalon Hill's **Computer Football Strategy** for my Commodore 64, expecting to play my own Super Bowl tournament. Surprise! The 16 teams are only on the Atari computer version. Someday I'll learn!

Dennis R. Schliebener  
Mt. Washington, Ky.

Ed: Slight differences from one version of a game to another were the reason we started including a section

on translations, Dennis. Although in your case it didn't help in time, thanks for the pat on the back. Some days we really need it!

## ERRATA

The November issue's Game of the Month, **Bruce Lee**, was mistakenly attributed to Datamost, when in fact the



BRUCE LEE (DATASOFT)

game is manufactured by DataSoft. Neither publisher is related to the other, and Electronic Games regrets the error.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR HE-MAN

In your September 1984 issue and 1984 Software Encyclopedia, it was obvious that you either didn't have or didn't read the instructions. The bombing sequence is only the first part of Mattel's **He-Man**. You're supposed to fly to the right until the mileage counter, which starts at 30, reaches 0. He-Man then hops out of his vehicle and engages in a different contest with Skeletor.

In this sequence, you must maneuver He-Man to the right of the screen, avoiding fireballs (and at later levels, spears) launched by Skeletor. You can

also catch a sword which can be used to block missiles. If you don't reach Skeletor within the time limit, he launches a spell that carries you back to the start of the game. If you reach him, you have a sword fight.

I think you should write an apology and re-write the review.

Gary Robinson  
San Diego, CA

Ed: Your first sentence said it all: as often happens with pre-release review copies, our reviewer did not have the instructions for the game. Your letter provided a great explanation of the second-screen events, though. Thanks for writing and setting us straight.

## QUIRK OF THE MONTH

Here's a way to send Q\*bert into space without a disc, and hopping on "invisible squares": On the Atari 5200 version, on the first screen, hop down four squares on the right side. Then, hop on the spinning disc. As soon as it turns yellow from Q\*bert's touch, pause the game and start over. Keeping pressing the hop button. When he's just about to appear, aim the joystick to the right. When Q\*bert jumps two squares down the right side, immediately move him back to the first square he landed on (not the one he appeared on). Then, jump to the middle square and change the colors of the other squares opposite the right side. Then, hop up to the top square and jump off the left side into "space." If you've done this right and kept your finger on the button at all times, you should land on the "invisible pyramid."

After you've learned to do this, you

# ROBOTS OF DAWN. BOOK BY ISAAC ASIMOV. COMPUTER GAME BY EPYX.



Now, for the first time, you can become Earth's most famous science fiction detective, **Elijah Baley**. In this text adventure, you're the hero of Isaac Asimov's top-selling novel, **Robots of Dawn**.

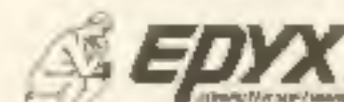
Travel to Asimov's world of the future in an epic quest to discover the answer to the eternal question... Who done it? On a planet where robots outnumber people, try to learn who is lying, who is telling the truth and, most important of all, who is the murderer.

The victim is a friend of yours, a famous scientist who invented history's most advanced robot, more

human than machine. With this sophisticated robot at your side, you piece together elusive clues scattered across a hostile planet whose government is determined to do you in. Can you stay on the case? Can you solve the mystery? Who do you trust? Your success depends on the answer.

Asimov created the story. We created the game. Now you can live it.

One player. Keyboard controlled; disk or cassette.



Strategy Games for the Action-Game Player



ROBOTS OF DAWN is a trademark of Franklin & Co.











## CONNECT

HAZE BECKONS THEE TO  
MASTER YOUR LOGIC



Designed by and for the

## RESCUE

MINERS BLOCKED  
BY MINE CREATORS



Designed by and for the

## LIFT-OFF

IGNITE AN UNPRECEDENTED  
SLATION CAUTION



Designed by and for the

## SOLO

WAGGLE ON A WEB OF  
INST REFLEXES ARE YOUR  
FLEET



Designed by and for the

AVAILABLE FOR MAJOR HOME COMPUTER SYSTEMS:

COMMODORE 64, ATARI, AMIGA AND APPLE II.

ACTIVISION

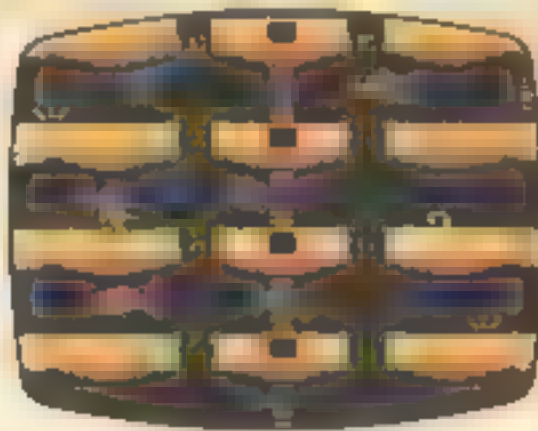




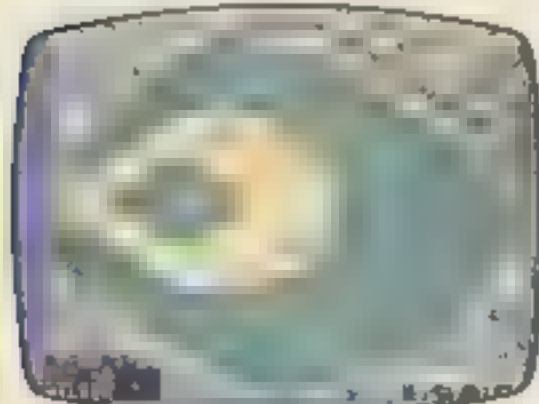
MOVIE MAKER (NESTOR)



PITSTOP II (EPYX)



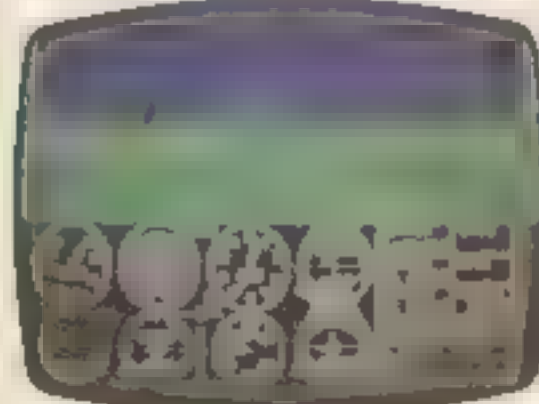
PITFALL II (ACTIVISION)



WORLD'S GREATEST BASEBALL GAME (EPYX)



B.C.'S QUEST FOR TIRES (SIERRA)

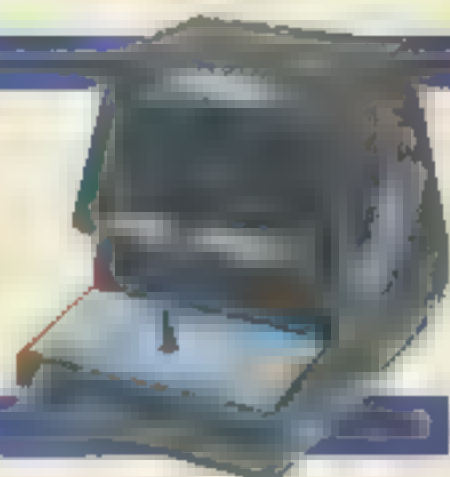


FLIGHT SIMULATOR II (SUBLOGIC)



MURDER ON THE ZINDERNEUF (ELECTRONIC ARTS)

## 1985 ARKIE AWARDS



### MOST INNOVATIVE SOFTWARE OF THE YEAR

#### WORLD'S GREATEST BASEBALL GAME

By Mike Latta  
This simulation gives sports gamers a choice of action, contest or statistics replay on the game disk. The strategy-oriented version gives wing room management a chance to put some of the great teams of the even and odd years as well as several all-star squads. And watching the intricately animated players execute each play is a gaming highpoint.

### MOST HUMOROUS VIDEO COMPUTER GAME

#### QUEST FOR TIRES

By Mike Latta  
The world of the comic strip B.C. comes alive in this action-adventure featuring the adventures of the Cute Chick from the cast of the popular Humorous. Luchini heightens the connection with his character and a special time slot to the comic strip play.

### BEST ARCADE-TO-HOME TRANSLATION

#### JOUST

By Mike Latta  
Top notch visuals in both editions fully mimic the look of the original. The two player option is right in line with the current trend toward multi-player com-

puter programs, and the fantasy combat premise has classic appeal.

### BEST ELECTRONIC ACTION STRATEGY GAME

#### FLIGHT SIMULATOR II

By Mike Latta  
This is probably the most realistic (or realistic) ever get to taking things in hand and seeing a simulation of what you'd find in the real world. This program is a real gem, and by the way, it's a real gem.

### BEST ELECTRONIC STRATEGY GAME

#### MURDER ON THE ZINDERNEUF

By Mike Latta  
The computer game that is a real gem, and by the way, it's a real gem. The game is a real gem, and by the way, it's a real gem.

### BEST MULTI-PLAYER VIDEO/COMPUTER GAME

#### PITSTOP II

By Mike Latta  
This game is a real gem, and by the way, it's a real gem. The game is a real gem, and by the way, it's a real gem.



CONGO BONGO (SEGA)



DEMON ATTACK (IMAGIC)



AGENT USA (SCHOLASTIC)

### BEST ELECTRONIC FAMILY GAME

#### MILLIONAIRE

By Mike Latta  
Ever wondered what it would be like to make a million dollars? This comprehensive stock market simulation gives computerists the chance to find out - and without risking the bank account. Investors buy and sell stocks and warrants, trying to gauge the turns of the economy.

### ELECTRONIC VIDEO GAME OF THE YEAR

#### T.A.C.

By Mike Latta  
The clash of armies gets most of the ink in history books, but the interplay between small units is a real gem. This game is a real gem, and by the way, it's a real gem.

### ELECTRONIC VIDEO GAME OF THE YEAR

#### AGENT USA

By Mike Latta  
Here a painless and a highly enjoyable way to learn more about the geography of the United States. Players race back and forth across the country, trying to thwart an alien invasion and learning the state capitals in the process.

### STAND-ALONE GAMES DIVISION

### STAND-ALONE GAME OF THE YEAR

#### ZAXXON

By Mike Latta  
Many predicted that the renowned scrolling shooter would never appear on a home computer, but Atari proved the cynics wrong with this speedy and colorful unit.

### MINI-ARCADE GAME OF THE YEAR

#### MINER 2049er

By Mike Latta  
Last year's Miner 2049er won gaming's highest honor, the Electronic Game of the Year Arkie. This pint-sized device puts much of the original's charm in the palm of your hand.

### COIN-OP GAME DIVISION

### COIN-OP GAME OF THE YEAR

#### STAR WARS

By Mike Latta  
Winning Arkies in two different divisions in the same year proves that this multi-screen blastathon is a hit wherever players encounter it. The coin-vector graphics give the machine a distinctive and arresting look.

### MOST INNOVATIVE COIN-OP GAME

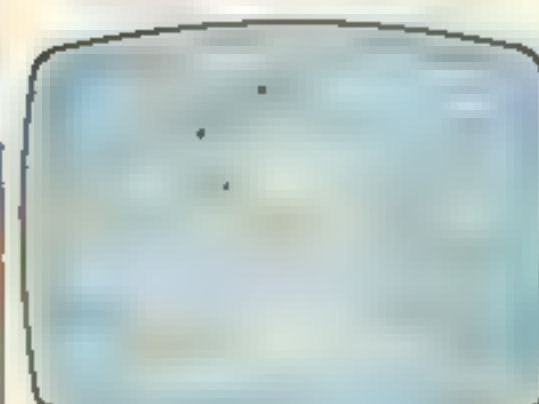
#### PUNCH-OUT

By Mike Latta  
This exciting boxing simulation earned its Arkie by introducing a fresh new perspective. Instead of watching the boxers from ringside, the player actually becomes one of the fighters and squares off against a foe, toe-to-toe.

### BEST COIN-OP AUDIOVISUAL EFFECTS

#### TX-1

By Mike Latta  
This superb racing contest goes even beyond Atari's own Pole Position and Pole Position II. It lets the gamer race over a selection of courses and uses multiple monitors to present the motor sports action.



T.A.C. (AVALON HILL)



PUNCH-OUT (NINTENDO)



STAR WARS (PARKER BROTHERS)



STAR WARS (ATARI)



# 1985 ARKIE AWARDS

## MORE PRIZE-WINNING ELECTRONIC GAMES

Only 27 games out of the hundreds upon hundreds released each year can hope to take home an Electronic Games Design Award. Yet many of

the runners up are easily good enough to have won a statuette in another year. That's why the EGDA Judging Committee annually salutes

the upper crust of gameware by awarding Certificates of Merit. The following games, grouped by division, have won certificates.



FLIP & FLOP (FIRST STAR)



SPARE CHANGE (BRODERBUND)



SEVEN CITIES OF GOLD (ELECTRONIC ARTS)

## 1985 Electronic Games Design Awards Certificates of Merit

### COMPUTER SOFTWARE DIVISION

Aerobics (Schnitzer)  
Amazon (Pitfall)  
Bannerclash (Schwartz)  
Beyond Castle Wolfenstein (Muse Software)  
Bruce Lee (Jai Soft)  
Campaign '84 (Morse Software)  
Carrier Force (Morse Software)  
Dragonriders of Pern (Apix)  
Droid (Broderbund)  
Enchanter (Pitfall)  
Flip & Flop (First Star)  
Fortress of the Witch King (The Avalon Hill Game Co.)  
In the Chips (Pitfall Software)  
Infidel (Infidel)  
Missing Links (Sunburst)  
MiG Alley Ace (MicroProse)  
Murder by the Dozen (B&B Software)  
Oil's Well (Sierra)  
Operation Whirlwind (Broderbund)  
Parthian Kings (The Avalon Hill Game Co.)

Pharaoh's Pyramid (Master Control)  
Pole Position (Atari)  
Rally Speedway (Adventure International)  
RDF 1985 (Strategic Simulations)  
Run for the Money (Starborough)  
Seven Cities of Gold (Electronic Arts)  
Spare Change (Broderbund)  
Star League Baseball (Amesoft)  
The Heist (MicroProse)  
The Spy Strikes Back (Penguin)  
Time Bound (B&B Software)  
Windows to the Galaxy (Morse Software)  
Wizardry III: Legacy of Llylgamyn (Sir Tech)  
Zaxxon (Synapse)  
Zeppelin (Synapse)

HERO (Apix)  
Montezuma's Revenge (Parker Brothers)  
Pistolpop (Pitfall)  
RealSports Baseball (Atari)  
Rescue on Fractalus (Atari)  
Robot Tank (Pitfall)  
Robotron (Atari)

### STAND-ALONE GAMES DIVISION

Donkey Kong (Atari)  
Mario Bros. (Nintendo)  
Cement Factory (Atari)  
Reversi Master (Atari)

### COIN-OP GAMES DIVISION

Crossbow (Atari)  
Crystal Castles (Atari)  
Eleven Action (Atari)  
M.A.C.H. 3 (Atari)  
Tag Team Wrestling (Atari)  
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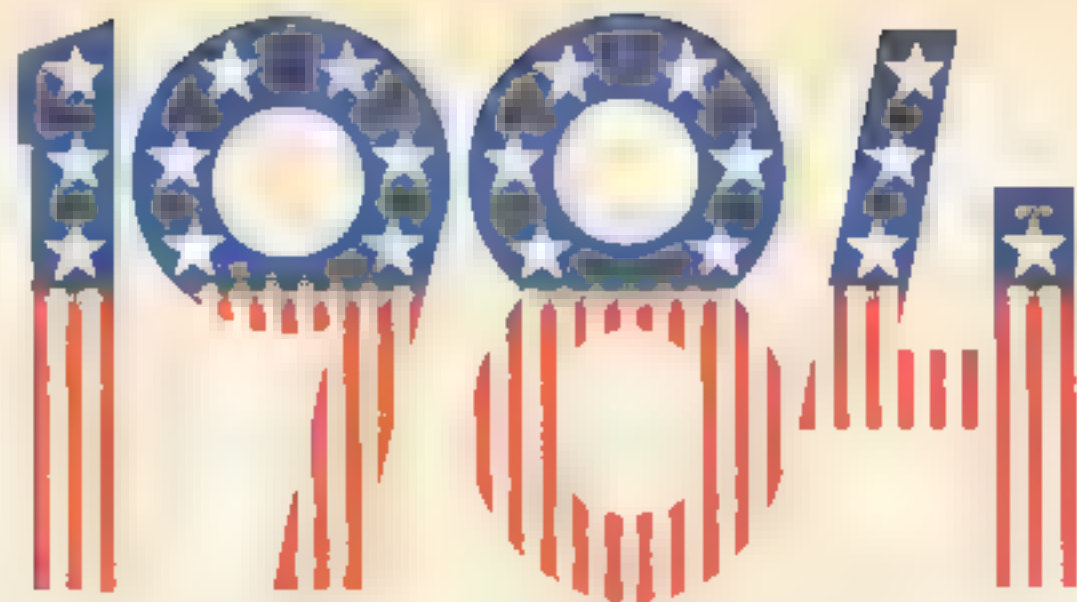
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## The Year That Shook Electronic Gaming

The Videogame Shake-out of 1983 put some misguided manufacturers out of their corporate misery, but it hardly cured all — or even most — of electronic gaming's problems. If the survivors expected to live happily and profitably ever after once the storm of Chapter 11 filings passed, the events of the last 12 months demonstrate that such carefree endings only happen in fairy tales.

Electronic gaming as a whole grew rapidly last year, but that prosperity wasn't evenly spread throughout the industry. The rapidly changing and hotly competitive marketplace took its toll in 1984. Numerous companies either sharply curtailed their activities or fled the field entirely. The timely infusion of venture capital saved more than one doom-bound outfit, while others like Trapeze Software faltered before introducing even one title to the gaming public.

The most important happening of 1984 was that computers replaced videogames as the cutting edge of electronic entertainment. Aggressive marketing, cheap hardware and sophisticated software have moved computers out of the hacker-techno-ghetto into the era of mass-market acceptance. So, while 1984 sales of videogame hardware and software slid alarmingly from previous record levels, millions of Americans took the plunge and bought their first computer.

How far did computers come last year? As of January 1, 1985, micros had found a place in 15% of the country's households. That's about the same degree of penetration videogames had achieved by the first

By ARNE KATZ

day of 1983. The prediction that more than half of all American homes will have a computer by the end of this decade is looking more and more realistic.

Computer software sales rose just as dramatically. As recently as 1983, publishers considered a game that sold 50,000 copies a major hit. These days, each title is offered for a whole range of systems, and software houses are hoping to sell more than 150,000 copies of their major releases. At this rate, look for the first Platinum Disk (one million copies sold) before the end of 1986.



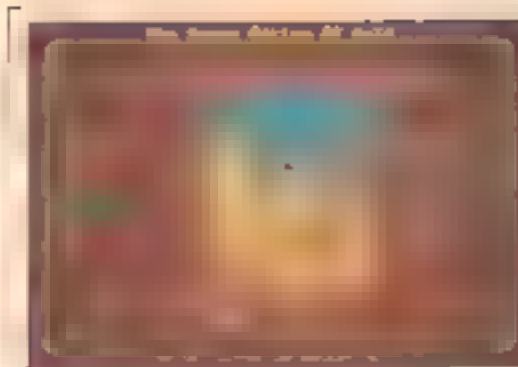
STAR WARS (PARKER BROS.)

Jack Tramiel's take-over of Atari definitely the year's biggest headline symbolizes the changes which are hitting electronic gaming. Once the home gaming champ, Atari saw its commanding position erode during 1984 as dedicated consoles and cartridges lost favor. Atari had hoped its 5200 would bridge the chasm between videogames and computers, but the switch happened a lot faster than anyone predicted. The price differential between the two types of systems evaporated, so most consumers have had no trouble making the leap directly to a micro without an intermediate step.

Similarly, Atari's software publishing was geared to the production of coin-op translations and original action games along the same lines. Shoot 'em-ups and the like are still big, but computers have made other genres, such as adventure and strategy contests, much more popular than was formerly the case.

The specifics of Atari's 1985 strategy are yet to be revealed as EC goes to press with this issue, but you can count on the company stressing computers rather than videogames. And it's worth noting that Atari's new boss amassed the loot to buy the Sunnyvale, Calif. company by doing a bang-up job of selling micros to the masses.

The Commodore 64, though available in second-half 1983, came into its own last year. Many software houses started doing primary design work on the C-64 instead of just translating programs from other systems, and this greatly improved the quality of games and entertainments available to own-



SEVEN CITIES OF GOLD (ELECTRONIC ARTS)

ers of Commodore's low-priced powerhouse. The C-64 became the first micro to sell in quantities comparable to the videogame consoles in 1984 — and 1985 shapes up as a strong year too.

The 48K standard for commercial game software programs finally gave way in late 1984 after holding at that level for nearly two years. Thanks to the C-64, Atari 800 XL and Apple IIe, 64K has now virtually replaced 48K as the typical program size.

Actually, memory size has only paused at the 64K plateau en route to a new 128K standard. The Apple IIc and IBM PCjr, both of which premiered in 1984, can handle the 128K titles, and games like King's Quest, Sierra, show the benefits of this larger design canvas.

One on One (Electronic Arts, Apple, Atari, C-64) was the most significant computer game introduced last year. No other disk proved as influential as this statistically based action-strategy contest. It made superb use of machine intelligence and ushered in a new vogue for two-player programs. And its blend of sports strategy and

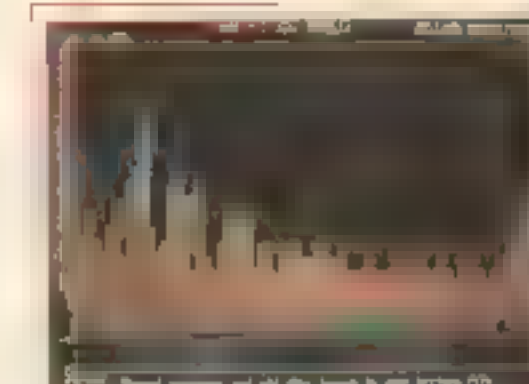
joystick pacing made a statement about how computer entertainment software was moving beyond the videogame's limitations.

Intercomputer software compatibility remained a dream, but publishers devoted considerable effort to getting each of their major designs into as many formats as possible. Even Atari and Commodore, which previously made software only for their own computers, began producing editions of top titles like Centipede, Dig Dug and Jack Attack for other systems.

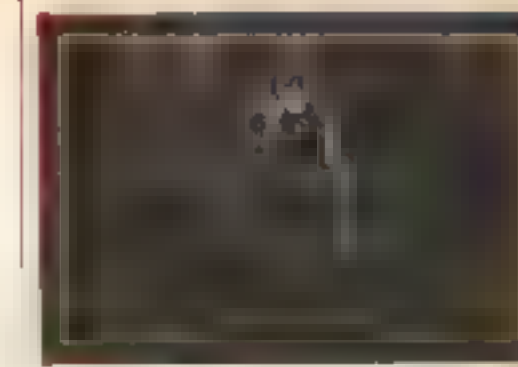
The year 1984 will also go down in gaming history as the one in which designers got the stars out of the r-



KING'S QUEST (SIERRA)




TYPING TUTOR II (S&S)

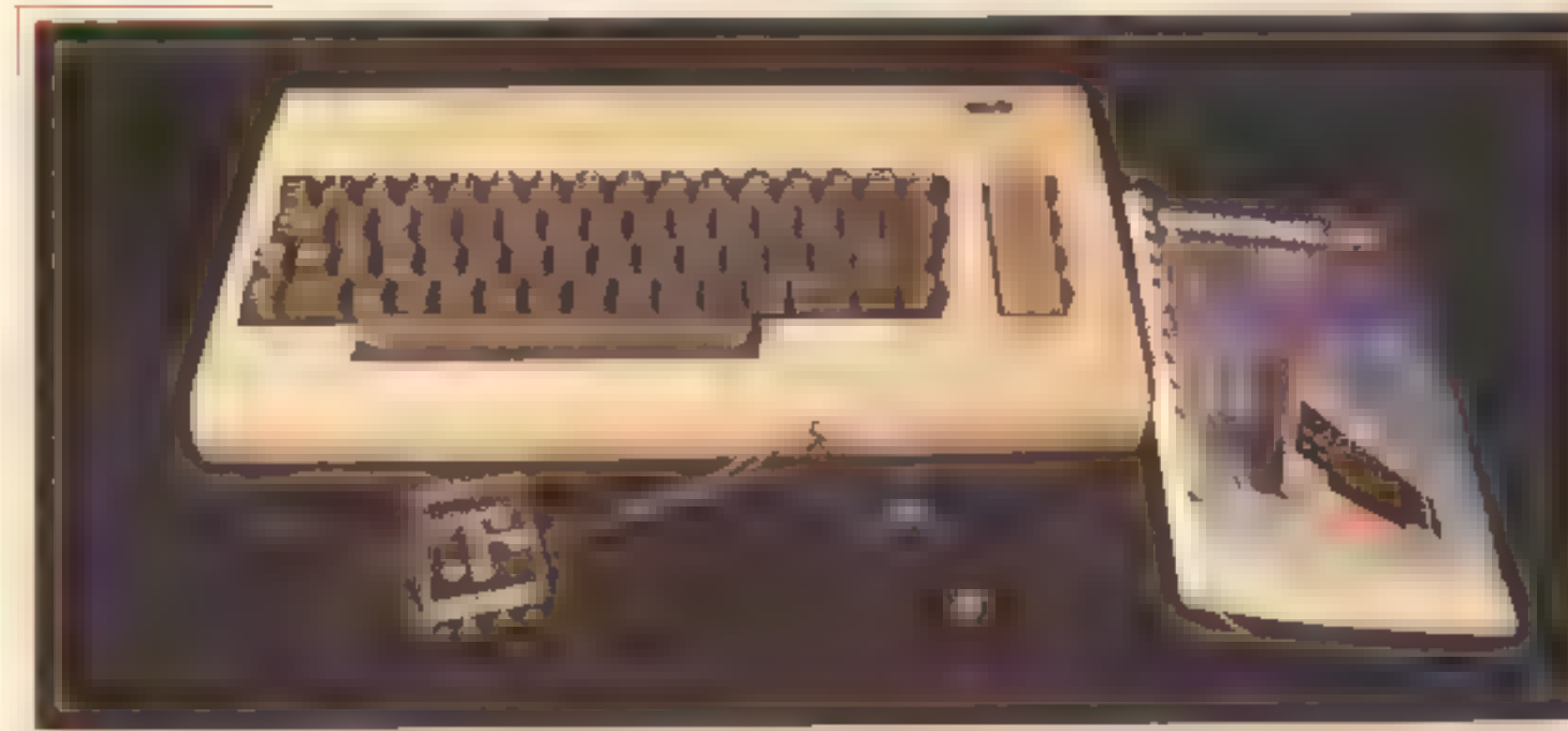


ONE ON ONE (ELECTRONIC ARTS)

eyes. Science-fiction games didn't completely disappear. Rescue on Fractalus (Atari) and Star Wars (Parker Brothers) are obvious exceptions to the trend, but many designers found their game concepts elsewhere. Greater memory size makes it possible to game out situations as complex as exploring the Americas in the time of Columbus (Seven Cities of Gold, Electronic Arts) or leading a rock band to super stardom (It's Only Rock 'n Roll, K-te).

Educational games and computer entertainment burst into prominence last year. Programs which use games to teach everything from typing (MasterType, Typing Tutor) to U.S. history (Timebound, USAventure) reached market during 1984. Video colorforms-type programs dominated the computer entertainment field, though there were also plenty of music and art programs. The public has shown interest in both categories, but it's too early to make predictions.

One thing we do know, however, is that computers have now turned the corner in the United States to become a mass-market item. 



The Commodore 64



# TOPS 'N' FLOPS



**The Darn Carnegie Cup**

To former Atari President J. J. Morgan, who sent personal letters to many in the industry and media figures explaining why he wasn't going to be able to attend the summer Consumer Electronics Show. The gesture might've been more appreciated if these warm personal communications weren't obvious photocopies. Maybe if he'd generated multiple copies by using an Atari 800XL and printer.



**The Take it with a Shaker-of-Salt Plaque**

To Coleco, which responded to criticism about non-delivery of promised Adam hardware and software by announcing a couple of hundred additional new products.



**The Not Quite Kosher Meatball on**

To Fox Video Games, which turned a sophomore teen movie into a dull non-action game called *Porky's*. But look on the bright side: Fox's videogame fiasco probably saved us from *Porky's II*.

# of 1984

## EG Salutes Gaming's Winners and Losers

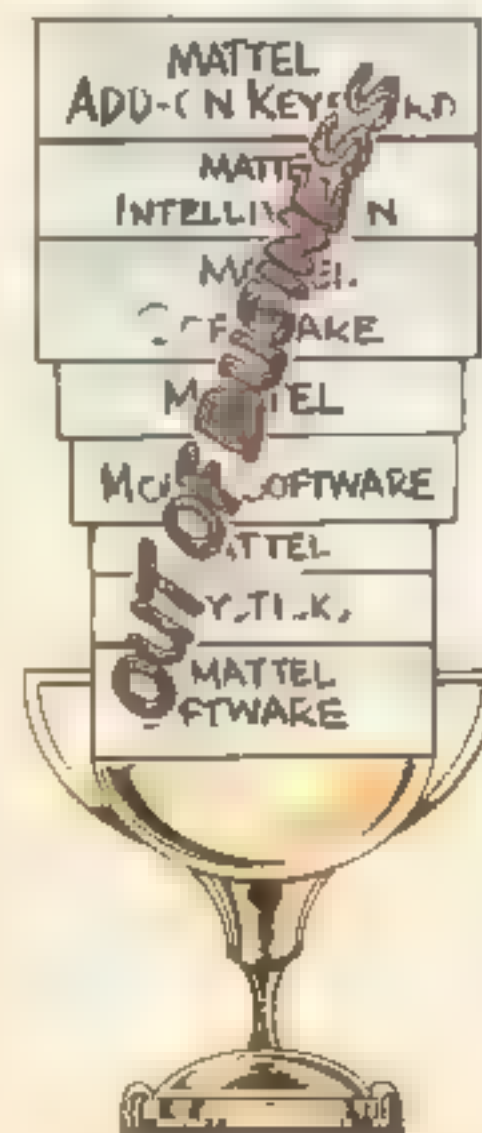
This month, two all-time great electronic games entered the Hall of Fame. We also salute the roll of 1985 Arcade winners in this issue.

These awards, however, are something just a little different. When our editors reviewed the electronic gaming events of 1984, we spotted some achievements which positively screamed for recognition.

So with tongues planted firmly in our cheeks, we present our selections.

**The All Good Things Come to He-Who Waits Trophy**

To Mattel, which finally released the add-on keyboard for the Intellivision, ending a three-year wait. The company immediately celebrated the debut of this long-anticipated artifact by getting completely out of the electronics business.



**The Whatever Happened to Mr. Dal**

To Mr. B.I. the Pink Panther and Mr. Koo, Adrenal of whom were set to star in their own videogames before the Big Shake-out did its deadly work.

**The It's Better to Be a Has-Been Than a Never-Was Award**

To all the software publishers who roared into the field like lions—and then slunk off into the night without producing a single title.





# What's Next For Electronic Gaming?

Gamers began to get bored with programmable videogame systems sometime in 1983. It was no coincidence that 1984 computer sales approached videogame volume for the first time. And if our crystal ball hasn't developed a warp, 1985 could be the year that leisure software truly reflects the upheavals in the hardware field.

This may be the Computer Age, but games haven't really changed much since the heyday of cartridges. Many computer games published in the last two years are little more than souped-up reiterations of the type of action contests which once thrilled owners of the 2600, Odyssey, Astrocade and, in television.

Of course, mind games have been a computer software staple since Vozniak soldered together his first Apple. Adventure and strategy programs have grown steadily in popularity. What has changed is that it's getting harder and harder to bow over electronic gamers with the latest blast-em-up.

Don't hold any waxes for the joystick and button fies, though. Action games still show up regularly on the best seller list and account for the largest single segment of software sales. But the majority of computer gamers are clearly more anxious to test their mental rather than physical abilities.

The lure of more diverse play experiences and the inescapable fact that computer users, being somewhat older, usually lack lightning quick reflexes helped foster the rise of "think tank" software. The main spur, though, is that computerists have higher expectations about new titles than videogamers did.

Knowing that computers are technologically superior to videogames, many software consumers understandably feel that computer games should display a comparable superiority. This is no small point. Con-

## By ARNE KATZ Here's EG's Forecast for 1985—and Beyond!

Consider the reception *Space Invaders* got when Ta-to stormed the amusement centers with it back in 1978. Now think how you'd react if someone showed you *Space Invaders* as one of this month's new computer games. Pretty yesterday's state of the art has become today's big yawn.

Action computer games, as much as any software genre, mirror this major change in consumer taste. Dressing up an engaging play mechanic in showy graphics isn't enough to guarantee home market success any more. The big action hits like *Lode Runner* (Broderbund) most computers downplay manic joysticking in favor of quick thinking. Even an action ace won't do well in *Lode Runner* unless he or she solves the program's mind puzzles with some creative thinking.

Even as action games get more cerebral, brain games—adventures, sports simulations and strategy contests, primarily—are becoming more detailed and satisfying. In many cases, programmers borrow action game elements for use in brain busters. Action, strategy and action-adventure are relatively new game categories which are showing enormous sales growth at the present time. Their dominance can only become more marked in the year ahead.

What about the other areas of electronic gaming? Since the crystal ball is a ready warmed-up and running,

let's look at what we can expect in 1985 and beyond.

### COMPUTER HARDWARE

If you've been wondering where the new computers are, rest easy. This is shaping up as a big year for hardware. Atari and Commodore are on a collision course, and their struggle for supremacy in the under \$1,000 microcomputer market figures to make many headlines in 1985. Both manufacturers will have new machines, though litigation surrounding the set of chips developed by Amiga may slow introduction of the new systems.

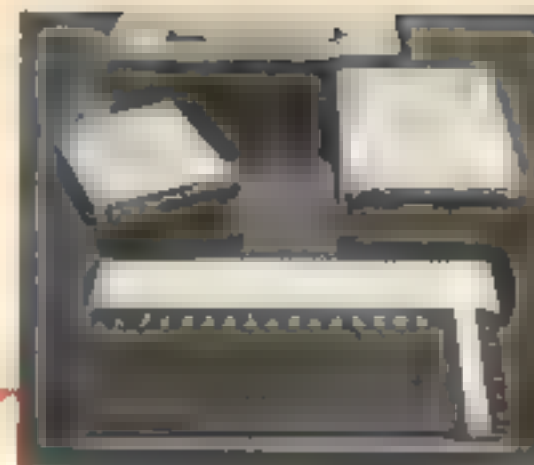
Apple still an overnight hit, should become even more popular in 1985 as software which capitalizes on its 28K resident memory gets through the pipeline and into the retail stores. IBM is gradually upgrading its PC to make it more competitive with the ICL. The enhancements correct most of the PC's flaws, so this system could come on strong in its \$1,000 niche. The Apple Macintosh is pricey at around \$1,500, but a new color monitor could make it a legitimate choice by mid-1985.

The MSX computers are coming, but who knows when? The idea of inter-brand software compatibility is mighty attractive. The high visibility of MSX producers like Sony and Panasonic won't hurt either. Current MSX machines are a bit technologically exciting, but it's a caveat that his group of Japanese manufacturers will offer flashier models when they finally tackle the U.S. market.

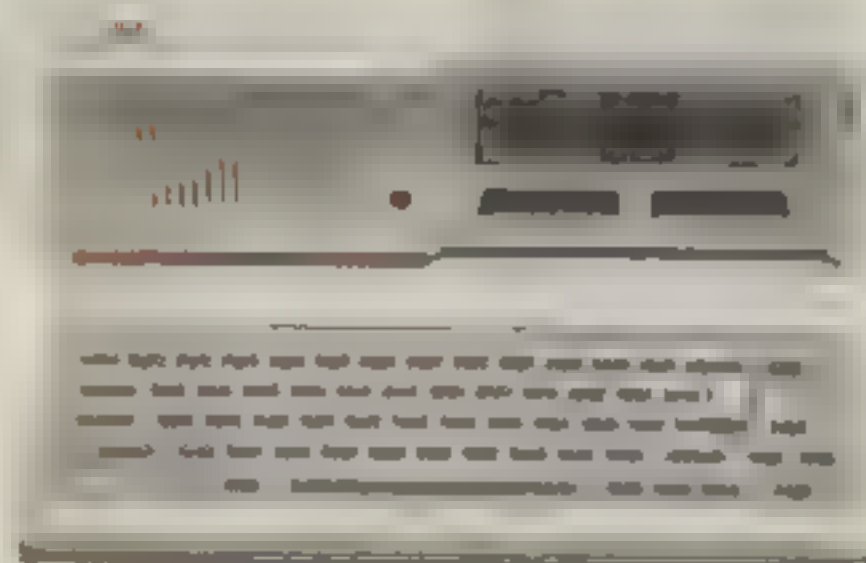
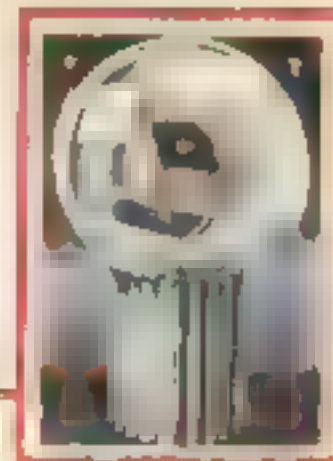
### COMPUTER SOFTWARE

Look for lower prices as publishers try to boost sales by making the products more affordable. Piracy still prevents massive price cuts, but too many software houses are covetously eyeing the mass market for games to stay \$40-\$50 each.

The quality and variety of leisure



The Atari 800XL home computer



The Apple IIc with peripherals

software will hit new highs, but quantity could shrink. Retailers are washing back at too many ho-hum, slow-selling programs. Most software houses will promote a smaller number of games with greater intensity to cut down on the number of duds.

The next shake-out could occur among manufacturers of educational software. Product duplication will

undo more than one company in this field before we ring in 1986.

### COIN-OPS

Something's got to give in pay-for-play, and eventually, but the current cycle may have to work through a little further before the coin-machine business is ready to embrace the next series of radical changes. The gradual

shift away from pure shoot-'em-ups has reduced player traffic at the nation's amusement centers, yet the conventional arcade ambience is inappropriate for adventures and strategy contests. They're too complex to learn quickly and take too long to play to allow the arcade operator to earn a profit at 25¢ or even 50¢ per play.

The laserdisc game phenomenon is virtually ended. Gamers resist the 50¢ cost; operators complain about return-on-investment and most titles have proven less durable money earners than was hoped. It may take a totally revamped amusement center format to provide the right showcase for the laser machines.

### STAND-ALONES

Obviously, the market for handheld, tabletop and pocket games isn't nearly as vigorous as it was in 1982 or 1983. A deluge of cut-price products has swamped the stores, blunting consumer demand for newer and more innovative designs. Don't expect to see anything like the number of mini-arcs in 1985 that came onto the market in either of the last two years.

On the other hand, there'll be more emphasis on producing fancier-looking mini-games aimed at the executive toy and gift market. That also means that the contests these machines play will probably veer away from straight-ahead action. Miniature action, strategy and action-adventure games could gain popularity in this format.

### THE SUM-UP

Obviously, many things await the gaming world in 1985 that have yet to show up on the EG crystal ball. In a fast-paced field like this one, unexpected developments are well expected. But electronic gamers enjoy challenges, so 1985 should emerge as an enjoyable, if somewhat hectic, year of growth and maturation for game lovers.





# COMPUTER GAMING

■ Action Arena	36
■ Translations	44
■ Articles of War	45
■ Passport to Adventure	46
■ Think Tank	47
■ Electronic Pressbox	54
■ Entertainments	56
■ Playing It Smart	58

## ACTION ARENA



CHAMPIONSHIP LODE RUNNER: BRODERBUND

### CHAMPIONSHIP LODE RUNNER

Designed by Doug Smith  
Broderbund Apple 48K & 512K

Give those super siblings who own this publisher a gold star for truth in advertising. A big red and white sticker on the package says "For Lode Runner Experts Only!" and the disk inside more than lives up to this advance billing.

Doug Smith, who gave us last year's Computer Game of the Year, is at the controls once more, but this time he's brought a crew of 10 helpers. The Lode Runner brain trust has created 50 playfields in the style of the original except that these are much tougher. Though the designers estimate that each one will take an average of two

weeks to solve, may sound like hanging in it's probably not that far off the mark. The first dubbed "Hero and the Vile Creature" isn't appreciably more challenging than the hardest screens in Lode Runner, but from there the difficulty shoots upward.

Visuals are slightly improved. Smith and cohorts have gone to some trouble to make the completed screens look better by working secret messages into the design of the playfield. Complete a level successfully and the computer plays a little victory tune. The Apple isn't exactly the ultimate Sound Machine, but a little music is a good segue to the next screen.

In any case, the Apple edition is obviously the definitive version of this climbing, jumping and digging game.

Lode Runner makes a genius out of whoever decided that Apple's joystick should have two action buttons instead of one. The controls scheme, which lets the player dig a pit in front or behind the on-screen hero depending upon which button is pressed, lets even those with average dexterity execute some fairly complicated maneuvers.

Of course, it's the strategic element which makes Championship Lode Runner so special. It's not quite an action strategy game in the same sense as Seven Cities of Gold, but it's a long, long way from shoot 'em up territory. Fully with the controller's a new way to play, you never see the payoff after the fifth screen or get that special "E" rate from Broderbund unless you can think your way through these puzzles.

And now for the first superfluous sentence of 1985: Championship Lode Runner is a must buy if you enjoyed the 1984 hit.

Arnie Katz

### BATTLE ZONE

Atari 400 & 500 cartridge

The old saw of videogame adaptation has always been "Games with vector scan graphics don't translate well to raster scan computer systems." That doesn't mean that a major American can't try. Atari has bucked convention by attempting to give this version of its arcade hit Battle Zone a vector scan look. Fans of the arcade original may be surprised with the results.

This is a first-person tank combat stripped down to its bare essentials. Although the game is difficult, it increases with each tank destroyed; there are no waves, and no chance for a breather between tanks. They just keep coming, faster, smarter, more aggressive, and more prone to fire behind your back (a nasty rule that

caused a lot of controversy in arcades but as they say, all's fair).

The spare, vector-like graphics that accompany the action complement Battle Zone's no-frills nature very well. True, no one is going to be fooled into thinking that they're looking at a real vector game. Animation for the most part is a bit too jerky, and there are times when the jangling of elements is so thick that the screen just becomes a morass of lines. Even so, anyone familiar with the arcade game will immediately recognize the terrain, and let's let her imagination take it from there.

The VIC is not an easy machine to program graphics for. It took guts for Atari to attempt to imitate the look of the arcade Battle Zone on such a limited machine. The result is not a 100% success, but is good enough to merit serious consideration by fans of the original. With good graphics and good gameplay, Battle Zone is a tough no-nonsense shoot 'em up.

Dan Persons

### HIDEOUS BILL AND THE GI-GANTS

Designed by J. P. Lee  
Virgin Games, Commodore 64 Disk

The temptation to wash out at this inoffensive even charming three-screen maze chase opus is powerful. However, it hopes that its datedness stems more from delays in bringing the game from Britain to the U.S. than ignorance about current state of the art. We'll hold the trades for later.

Hideous Bill and the G-Giants adds flourishes such as character animation and jaunty music to a play mechanic that offers little advance over Pac-Man. On the first screen, for example, the gamer uses the joystick or keyboard to steer Bill around a maze in which he must destroy the eggs which line the corridors while avoiding the deadly touch of the giant ants. By touching the spears dotted around the ants' nest, Bill gets temporary power to despoil ants on contact.

Hideous Bill and the G-Giants is essentially a videogame design enhanced to make it palatable to computer gamers. And that's what it is: palatable but rather bland.

(Steve Davidson)

### SUPER PIPELINE

Interphase C 64 Disk

In this action offering, the player controls a plumber whose job is to

keep water flowing from its source through a snaking network of pipeline where it pours into a bin. Of course, union rules being what they are, the plumber can't actually fix the pipe, but must rely on an assistant for the dirty work.

But this is no ordinary pipeline. Vandals and bugs climb a ladder at the far right of the screen and must be shot before they reach the top, where the vandals drop breakers onto the pipe. This stops the flow right at the break, so the plumber must lead his assistant over to it. When the assistant is finished, he must be picked up and tied to the next task.

## But this is no ordinary pipeline...

Bugs drop from the top of the screen and wander around the pipeline. Their sting is fatal, though the plumber's assistant can hammer them to death if he isn't already working on a project.

The graphics are colorful, and background music, which changes with each new screen, is excellent. But the game itself is a little too simple, especially for those with a little sharpshooting skill. Once you figure out that picking vandals off the ladder is easier than scrambling all over the pipeline trying to fix the damage, there isn't much suspense left in the game even when the quick and deadly Superbug appears. It's a nice try that really needs a few more play elements.

Tracie Farman

### LASER GATES

Wing War

### QUICK STEP

Image: Atari Computers 512K Disk

There's a growing trend among game publishers to put two or more older or otherwise less marketable games together in one package to make up in quantity for what might be lacking in state-of-the-art quality. This disk, a perfect example, handles several average games. This disk is for people who enjoy getting more bang for the buck even though none of these three games stand up well on its own.

Laser Gates, like the other titles originally premiered as a videogame, is a pretty standard scrolling shoot-out. Wing War, last seen as a pretty good ColecoVision cart, lets gamers become a flying dragon, which must battle airborne enemies while picking up valuable treasures. Quick Step's graphics have been dressed up considerably from its 2600 version; in this unusual color-changing contest, gamers take the role of a kangaroo, which hops back and forth across various foods which scroll up the screen. A competing creature tries to turn the food to its own color, while the kangaroo's job is to keep claimed territory its own hue.

Considering the range of outstanding game software still available to Atari computer owners, none of these games really stacks up to the competition. This threesome might appeal to serious game collectors and those looking for a three-for-one sale. But as far as serious play value is concerned, there's not enough here to concern average gamers.

Tracie Farman



LASER GATES: IMAGIC





GUMBALL (BRODERBUND)

**GUMBALL**

Broderbund 64 Disk

Life isn't always sweet at the gumball factory. Players guide gumballs through the proper gates so that they ultimately land in the bin of the corresponding color. Easy day, the worker must meet a new quota by 5:00 quitting time.

The player uses the joystick to move gumballs back and forth across the bottom of the screen. Pressing the action button causes all the on-screen gates to flip in the opposite direction, and it takes a good eye and quick reflexes to open and shut the gates for the gumballs. Pressing the joystick up speeds up the assembly line, while pulling it down slows the appearance of new candies.

The gumballs and their guiding corridors are drawn in colorful detail, and the action is absorbing. When you catch a gumball in the wrong colored bin, a supervisor comes out, shakes his fist, and dumps the entire bin over.

The intermission screens provide great incentive for doing the job right. After each successful workday, the factory worker is shown returning home. At the worker's evening house is a mere hut, while each promotion brings a successively larger and better appointed home.

Gumball is a difficult game to categorize. The real emphasis is on accurately timing the gate movements, though strategy plays a strong role in deciding which gates to open or shut. Since the speed is partially controlled by the player, the suspense level is relatively low. Still, those intermission screens are wonderful, and teaching them is a lot of fun.

Tracie Forman

**BLOCKADE RUNNER**

Interphase C 64 Disk

Blockade Runner is a rarity in computer software—a game that made the transition from videogame to computer and ended up the worse for the move. The Intellivision original was a difficult, frustrating game that a two-player option made fun to play. This edition has no two-player option.

Gamers have a first-person perspective of space through the main screen of one of four freighters on the way to Earth with needed supplies. A control panel indicating fuel consumption, shield strength, and the presence of mines and ice runs across the bottom of the screen. Nothing is ever easy in space, so it will come as no surprise that there are unfriendly aliens out there interfering with interplanetary trade just to even things up; the aliens

have forced the convoy out of the main trade route and into a hyperactive asteroid belt. While the players worry about fuel levels, alien ships and mines come along to make things really interesting.

Wait. That's not all by a long shot. The ship's missiles have no effect on the asteroids hurtling towards it, but the asteroids overheat the detector shields each time they hit the ship, which is constantly running into a handy formation of ice crystals which look something like a miniature Crab Nebula and are announced by ship's sonar. Will boost shields to full power and restore limited fuel at the same time. Or given enough time, the shields will cool off by themselves. Unfortunately, time is an even shorter supply than the elusive ice. And once the shields overheat, the ship self-destructs.

Obviously, only a lot of defensive maneuvering and fancy rocket work helps here. This is where things start getting frustrating. While the ships are maneuverable, it isn't easy to see which direction they're actually headed in. The only things visible to the player are the thruster rockets on left, right, and center of—and presumably under—the viewscreen. The ship moves in the opposite direction to the firing rocket. However, since the starry backdrop never changes, players must keep their eyes on the rockets rather than the viewscreen. This takes a lot of getting used to and gives the feel of being immobile in the middle of a rockslide.

No matter how adept commanders get at ducking and dodging space debris, it won't be enough when the alien hardware starts showing up. Now players at least have the chance to fight back, and missiles come into play. In the middle of the screen is a green sight. If the mine or alien ship is lined up in the crosshairs when a missile is fired, the missile will track down the enemy anywhere on the screen. This sounds easier than it is in practice, as it takes a lot of ship movement to get the mine in the sights. Occasionally, the ship is actually under. If it isn't found quickly, the ship is destroyed by something its commander can't even see.

As any dedicated space jockey can tell, the pace can get frenetic around

this point. And to top it off, the game increases in difficulty automatically as the player's skill improves. This is where the two-player mode made a difference. It allowed one player to concentrate on maneuvering and the other on firing, which simplified things a bit.

It may well be that with the reflexes of an Olympic athlete and the patience of Job, Blockade Runner could become a challenging and entertaining game to play. It seems an awful lot of work, though, for such an essentially small return.

Louise Kohl

**MOONSWEEPER**

Atarisoft Ti 99 4A Cartridge

Red Alert, red alert. Calling USS Moonsweeper. The moons in Star Quadrant Jupiter 2 have been invaded and its miners captured. The miners have escaped but are stranded on the moons of Jupiter. Your mission is to proceed to each moon, rescue its miners, and destroy any enemies you may encounter.

As the action begins, the gamer pilots one of five moonsweeper ships in Jupiter's orbits. The ship's flight is threatened by photon torches and satellites. These obstacles must be destroyed before they track the position of the ship and demolish it. If the Moonsweeper flies over any of the orbiting moons that whiz past, the craft enters that moon's gravity field and automatically descends to the surface.

While the ship cruises on the lunar surface, miners anxiously await rescue come into view. The Moonsweeper must fly over the miners in order to transport them safely to the ship. While the rescues are being attempted, enemy launcher ships circling overhead drop surface destroyers that can fire space bullets at all angles. Tall enemy towers also appear at random, and a collision with one of these is fatal.

When a moonsweeper has rescued six miners on a moon, accelerator rings appear. The player can gain speed by flying through these rings and blasting off into orbit.

The gamer has the advantage of both long-range and short-range missiles. During space flight, all missiles

are long-range and can destroy all enemies. When fighting on the lunar surface, short-range missiles can be used to demolish surface destroyers and towers, while long-range missiles can be used to destroy launcher ships.

The moons appear in four different colors indicating difficulty levels ranging from blue moons for beginners to red moons for the supreme challenge. Blue and green moons appear in all orbits, while yellow and red moons only appear in later orbits.

An instrument panel at the bottom of the screen allows the player to monitor the speed of the moonsweepers and to see the location of the stranded miners. The control panel also displays the number of remaining moonsweepers, the amount of fuel remaining, and the score so far.

Two convenient advantages of this

**WIZARD**

Progressive Peripherals and Software C 64 Disk

The first thing you need to know about Wizard is that it may give you a galloping case of déjà vu—it's practically Name That Game. However, it has a few interesting twists all its own and ends up as a pretty good example of the action-adventure genre. It's a lot of fun to play and is often challenging.

The on-screen character is not surprisingly a wizard who goes by the name of Wilfred and moves around like a colorful Gandalf doing a Mr. Natural imitation, especially when ducking. His job is to get the keys, and any treasures along the way, and highlight to a keyhole and the next of 40 screens. Keys and keyholes are not always convenient to each other.



MOONSWEEPER (ATARISOFT)

program are the pause key and the redo function. The action in space or on the moons can be temporarily stopped by pressing the P key. If several ships are blown away early in the game, the redo function can be used to give frustrated players another chance.

Moonsweeper seems simple at first but develops into a fast-moving and challenging game. The graphics and sound effects are good, and Moonsweeper is as much fun for observers as for players.

(Joseph Pedreiro)  
(Siobhan Stevens)

naturally, and Wilfred must deal with combinations of fireballs, arrows, sword-wielding maniacs, and worse. Getting around in one piece requires a ludicrous combination of ducking, climbing, jumping, and beating a hasty retreat. When unsuccessful, Wilfred falls to his doom of a la Jumpman Jr., complete with stars and bird calls.

Wilfred is not entirely at the mercy of his athletic prowess. True to his sorcerous nature, he usually has spells to help out in sticky situations, which he gets upon picking up the key. Using the spells is sometimes awkward. For



example, when Wilfred is invisible, his enemies aren't the only ones who can't see him—the gamer may lose him for a while, too. Spells which require aiming are cast by pointing the joystick in the right direction and pressing the space bar. Rosemary Woods would be good at this game. Other spells are invoked by the space bar alone or by pressing the fire button while holding the joystick all the way back. There are a so teleportation booths on many levels, but be warned: they don't always send Wilfred into healthy territory.

Keep an eye on the bottom of the screen for a running status report, including number of wizards left, points and available spells. Each level is timed and there are bonus points up to 1200 for speed, so it doesn't always pay to go after superfluous treasures. On the other hand, some treasures affect more than just the point total and are worth discovering. You'll get another wizard for every 10,000 points and two extra for every 10 screens completed.

Many ways Wizard is a typical climbing and jumping game, but it has enough extra features to give it appeal for gamers who don't generally love programs of that type. And it has very good play value. Gamers have the option of six levels of difficulty and nine speeds. There's a mystery option that

throws the screens at you at random and if that isn't enough, you can also design your own levelish playfields and save them to disk to amaze and frustrate fellow gamers. All in all, a game that should more than pay for itself in hours of gaming pleasure.

—George Koh

### 55. **ACHILLES - RED ALERT!**

Beyond Software  
Atari Computers 48K Disk

The British are coming. The British are coming, only this time through a software invasion to Atari computers with 48K RAM.

One of the better English-designed games is Beyond's **55. Achilles - Red Alert!** This five-level, user-selectable, game offers an alien command of an artifact-laden starship that's been penetrated by a deadly life form similar to earthy fungi.

Computerists must find and store as many relics as possible in the shuttlecraft before using it to escape. Only defensive measures can be taken as the alien being is indestructible.

Because contact is fatal, the joystick-controlled alter ego operates from a research droid. Since it is a mechanical device, it naturally consumes power. Run out, and it's curtains.

To avoid immobilization and subse-

quent madness, starvation, or other unpleasantness, power packs must be gathered and stored in the shuttle.

Bumping into anything lessens the droid's defense. It can be increased by finding and putting items (integrity packs) in the escape craft.

Fancy footwork in the mazes is not the only means of thwarting the blob. A sea-ant gun can be picked up and pressed into service, making passages more resistant—but not impervious—to the biological onslaught.

There are 72 objects in all, but luckily, four different ones can be earned simultaneously.

Besides the primary infection, fast-breeding seeds are randomly created. Spinning spores, generally more of a nuisance than a real threat, travel about attacking themselves to the android's casing—with the same detrimental effects as the fungus. Evasion or trickery are the only means of handling it.

In addition to the scrolling maze-like corridors of the ship, an overhead view of the entire vessel is available. This is particularly useful in determining safe passageways. Be prepared as joystick control is extremely sensitive. The corridors can be very narrow, and the fungus growth acts as if it ate a cargo hold full of Wheaties.

The left screen shows a tremendous view of the Achilles while outrageous organ-like music plays. The graphics, audio effects and colors used for gameplay are of a more standard fare.

**55. Achilles—Red Alert!** is challenging fun, nonetheless. An interesting well-executed concept. It blends a little *2001: A Space Odyssey* with a lot of *Alien*.

—Ted Saramone

### HAZARD RUN

Artwork: Atari Computers  
24K Disk, 16K Cassette

Mix liberal amounts of *The Dukes of Hazzard*, the country's number one spectator sport, auto racing, match, and the home computer phenomenon, and what have you got? A great concept for a computer game.

After all, good ole boys, fast cars, and PC's all have large followings. It stands to reason, according to my flowchart, anyway, that combining all three would be successful.



HAZARD RUN (ARTWORK)

This is where *Hazard Run* comes in. It provides gamers with the opportunity to perform joystick jumps and stunts with a video representation of the General Lee. Though well conceived, it's poorly executed.

While escaping from the crooked sheriff, players must avoid chickens, trees, rocks, fences, and water obstacles. No, only a jumping pillow will save up the score. So if you're busy, save, and there's no way of telling which ones will be the free-wheeling Charger.

Escape velocity must be reached for the car to jump ponds, lakes, and rivers. Otherwise, it's a quick trip down and into the water. So it's cold.

Slidewiping anything puts the car to one wheel. While great for tight spots, it's not recommended, or long, hard, or on any of the user-selectable runs. Five skill levels in this one-player game. Moving the stick correctly rights the General before it tips over, completely, thereby necessitating a replacement.

The controller's action button acts as a brake, while the shaft handles directional input.

Musical accompaniment consists of a few bars of Dixie at the game start and before a jump, sound effects are limited almost entirely to crashes and occasional police sirens.

Graphics finish in first and last place. Some, the overhead view of a car and trees, are done well, while others

clies near water is lousy. Many times the car is unavoidably lost when it is back into the water, cleared moments before. Since you can't drive in reverse, that shouldn't happen.

Also, it's possible to fall into the drink at 0 mph. How can the car go faster than even moving?

Even a guest appearance by the Dukes can't save *Hazard Run* from its sell. This is one race not worth entering.

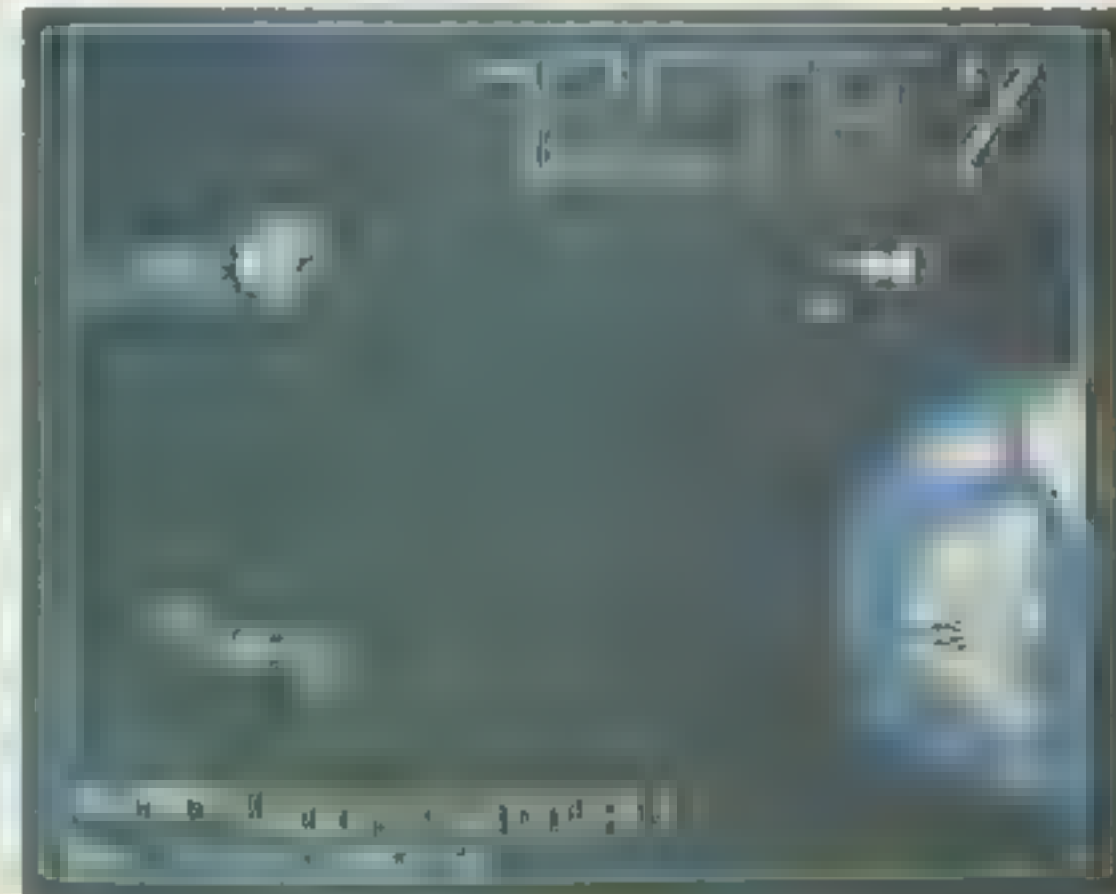
—Ted Saramone

### ZETA 7

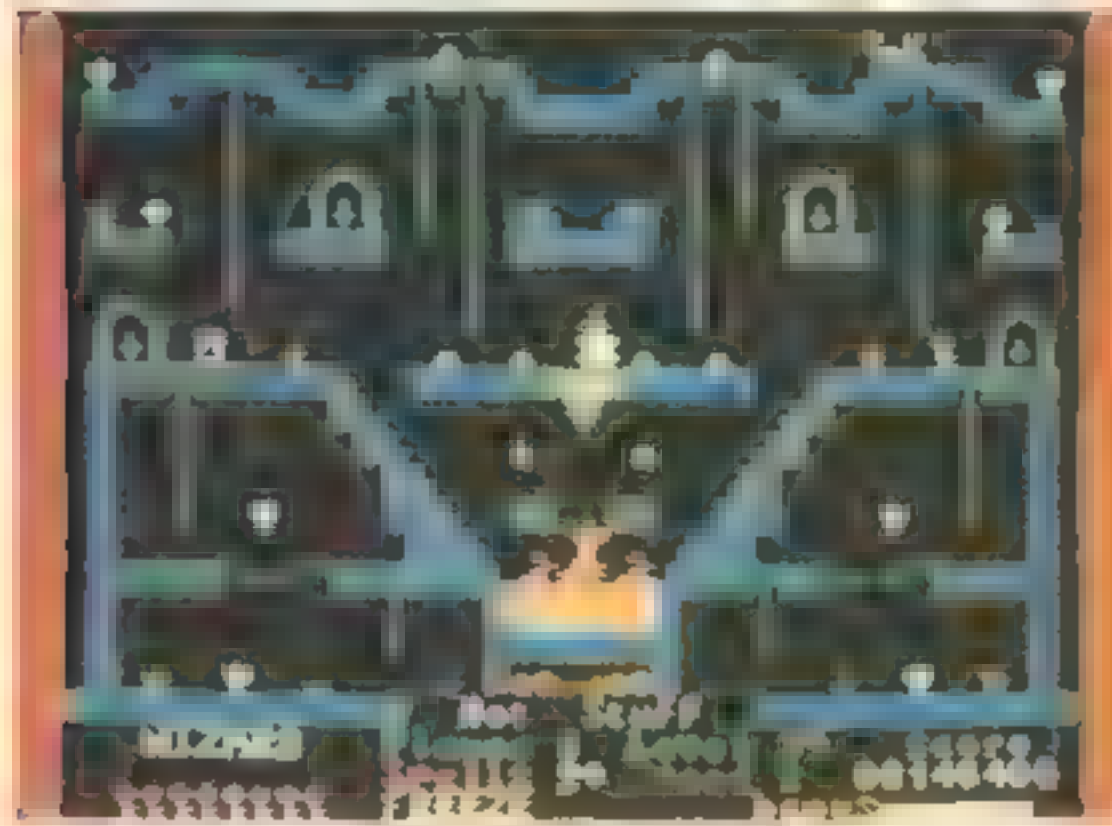
Designed by Bruce Robinson  
Victory Software C-64 Disk

This is perfect for gamers still looking for the quintessential space shooter. *Zeta-7* isn't a faultless game, but it's still worth taking a look at while the search continues. Along with some very nice music and good graphics and gameplay, it has the virtue of a nice sense of humor.

The player has the task of protecting Zeta Class Defense Sphere #7, a metallic-looking sphere from an unseen pod. The pod is heavily armed with a so-called powered positron accelerator, which appears to have an unlimited supply of ammunition. This is just as well, since all the enemy ships have high-energy plasma



ZETA 7 (VICTORY)



WIZARD (PROGRESSIVE PERIPHERALS)



capabilities and a more attack vehicles. There are some friendly, or at least neutral, satellites around too. The enemy ships are the ones that look like a cross between the space sequence in *Zaxxon* and the Starship *Enterprise*.

Using the joystick, the player moves a winged ship around the screen on what's essentially a search-and-destroy mission. The action button releases friendly fire bolts; a slow-release is no rapid fire option, which is sometimes a pity. Enemy law appears as huge and increasingly larger orange fireballs. These can be stopped in the tracks with games' pos-tron guns and reach past to hit behind their backs of armor. All the enemy ships have amazing, delightful maneuvers you kind of see at a glance. They're not too much like *Mosby*, either; ships also seem to have the ability to clone at will and sometimes into different and larger ships as a topiche

Across the bottom of the screen is the pod's status board. The most important thing to watch on this is the Zeta status on the right. When Zeta status is red, overload and self-destruct are imminent.

The quadrilateral Zeta-7 explodes with some rather nice graphic effects. There is a series of minor explosions on the surface, then one huge blow out that lights up the whole screen. The next thing in view is a dead planetoid. The computer will then inform the successful protector that the quadrilateral has been lost along with 8,000,000 lives. If this isn't depressing enough, it goes on to comment that a promotion is unlikely. If he pod guess isn't the seem to be considerably even children casualties, but chances for promotion are equally slim.

Gameplay is good once the player adjusts to the problems of aiming or dodging spaceships and to the lag time between post-run shots. Zeta-7 can be quite challenging, especially as enemy numbers increase and fireballs seem to come out of every

The graphics are quite good of the kind the stars are colorful and actually sparkle and the fireballs are pretty awesome. The game takes in a comparatively small sector of space, so there's not a vast variation in the scenery. The music accompanying the opening screen is very good, appropri-

waterly spacey a life promising and  
almost classical in tone

There's no great call for space games these days, so almost all of them seem to have an old-fashioned air to them. But for gamers who still

have an itch to roam around the universe and have an intergalactic villain. *Jet 2* should be a real hit. It's a must worth having just to listen to that opening music.

*E. Duran, K. Kohn*

## TRANSLATIONS

## STELLAR 7

Designed by Damon Nye  
Penguin Software Apps  
www.pn.com 64 49k Dns

This multi-screen, first-person perspective tank combat game isn't new, but it has just been resuscitated by a major publisher. Undoubtedly, this will make it much easier for gamers to track down.

The player uses joystick or keyboard to command the Raven, a super-weapon which has the power to become invisible. The mission is to find the machine and bring it back in one fell swoop, by wrapping it in panels in panel after panel, e.g. at least at each stopping point. The weapon is very noisy, so you have to be

The only major change from the original is for the better. The documentation is much more comprehensive. Presenting the rules as a military briefing reinforces the theme, thus helping the players get into the proper mood for fast and furious fighting.

The game disk contains the Apple program on one side with the C 64 code on the reverse.

Steve Davidson

**QUESTRON**

The simulation of *Questrom* is just as playful and pretty much as easy to grasp as its Argentine-made cousin recently reviewed. If veterans of the *U* film series will find the play mechanic



game system, licensed from Lord British. The effect is kind of like playing non-electronic Dungeons & Dragons, with two different Games Masters: the basic rules are the same, but the creative juices behind the games vary widely. *Questtron* is definitely the easier game, though it still offers plenty of challenge.

Unlike the *Ultima* series, players can use either keyboard or joystick to maneuver the on-screen persona through the lands. The entire program is menu-driven, displaying all possible actions on the leftmost portion of the screen. This eliminates the frustration of having to figure out exactly what can be done in any given situation, saving the character's time and possibly skin as we

The player assumes the role of a lowly serf from Geraldton, entrusted with saving the land from an evil wizard's forces. Armor, weapons, food and transport are available in towns, and strategically placed castles and banks offer different options for financial planning. Cathedral's house classes are capable of restoring lost hit points, so give generously for the best results. These churches also provide the opportunity to raise the character's ability points in such areas as strength, intelligence, and magic for the price that is. And wise players will visit the Castle often to discover the many secrets it holds. Clues can be obtained by bribing prison guards to let you talk to the inmates.

As in all Question 8 an exceptional game deal for first-time players is much easier to learn than *Ultima*, since the player doesn't have to memorize the key commands for different functions. Clues are also more plentiful and the smart player writes down everything he or she hears from prisoners and wandering monks on Naga pilgrims. If you liked *Ultima*, you'll also like *Question*.

Grace Forman

**FROGGEN**

Source: Adapted from Dyer.

Frogger needs a joystick. That's essentially the problem with the Mac version of Frogger — no joystick control. A fast action game such as this needs control flexibility and the mouse and keyboard simply don't cut it.

the mustard. One isn't sturdy enough while the other is just plain convenient.

in the life and death struggle to get a frog safely from soft shoulder to home base the player wants a controller that can be abused. As your anxiety level rises, you want to be able to transfer that to the controller. You can't really do that with the mouse. While it is breathtakingly efficient for correcting editorial errors in copy, it doesn't do nearly as well directing forces

The keyboard is bouncier and therefore permits faster reflex action; however you only get to use four keys (i, k and j). This is a small area which in the scuffle of play can be easily

misplaced. Before you know it you find yourself pressing up for a while, worth and not moving anywhere. This is inconvenient and the mode of correcting your mistake — looking down — wastes precious time. However, of the two forms of control, the keyboard is better.

The graphics are very clear with resolution as good as the coin-op game. However, they are black and white and something is lost in the absence of color. A black frog is a bit too macabre. In truth, and game players are likely to find that this Frogger uses something in transition. The Mac was simply not made with this purpose in mind.

Randy Hacker

## ARTICLES OF WAR

## WAR OF THE WORLDS

Designed by Joseph A. Delinski  
Task Force Commodore 64/Disk

H.G. Wells' novel of interplanetary imperialism shocked the Victorians more than Orson Welles' Mercury Theatre radio broadcast panicked pre-World War II Americans. We've all become a bit jaded with such notions in this Star Wars era, but the idea that inhabitants of another world could

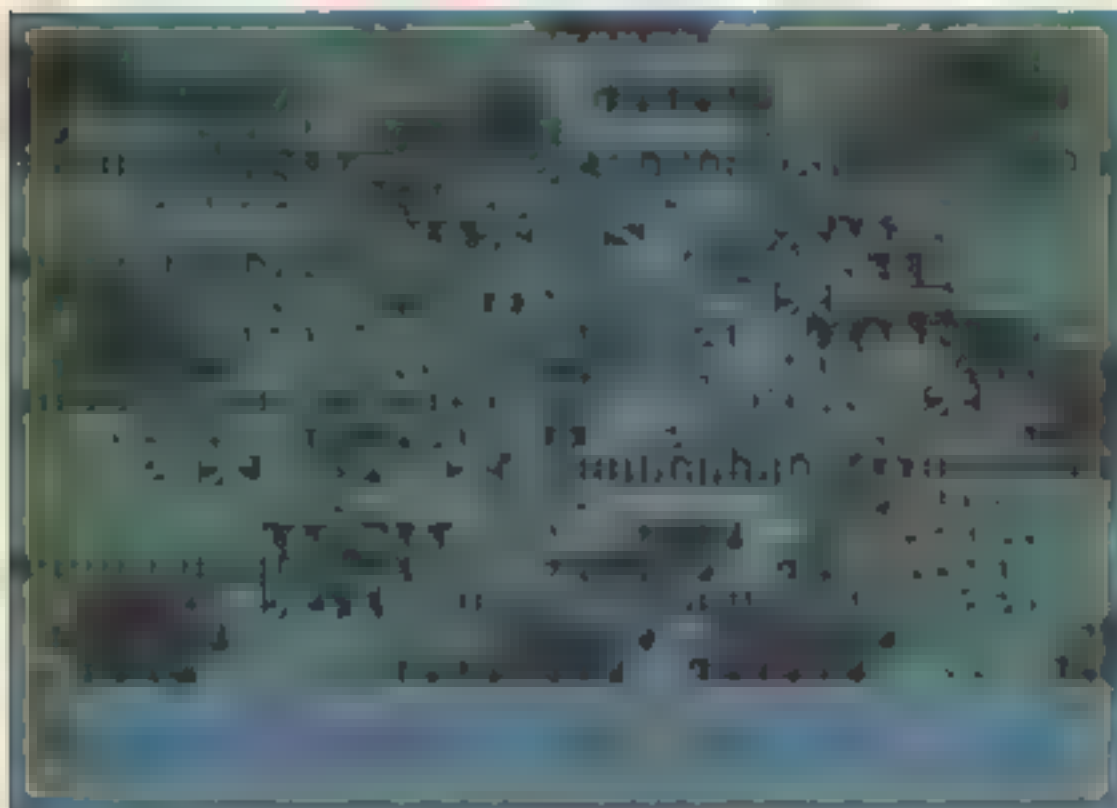
pods to this planet. As a point of strategy, the Martians have targeted Great Britain — the leader of Western Civilization at the time the novel appeared — as the invasion site.

The player in this solo wargame commands the British defenders — consisting of infantry, cavalry and artillery — against the Martian forces, which can land one cylinder per turn in the London area. Once a cylinder touches down safely, it disgorges the deadly tripod. These tank-like weapons fan out through the area, destroying the city block by block as they go.

The armchair general must try to destroy the landing craft before the tripods get moving, or if this proves impossible, organize a delaying defense which preserves as much of the city as possible. Performance is rated by the computer at the end of the game, based on the number of city spaces still intact.

vargamers may find War of the Worlds somewhat simple compared to a full blooded military simulation. Although there are several types of terrain and three varieties of human troops the designer has opted to minimize these factors. Terrain has only two noticeable effects: artillery is more at half speed through woods and parks, and a human unit





WAR OF THE WORLDS: TASK FORCE E1

travel much faster on railroads than they do overland.

Units are differentiated in only one respect. Prior to the start of the game, the computer randomly determines which type is the most powerful, middle and weakest. It generally takes several engagements to figure out which sort of troops will be most effective this time.

Combat is fairly abstract. Martians and humans attack by moving onto an occupied space. Attacks are resolved as they occur during the course of movement, so more than one human force can attack the same cylinder or tripod in the same turn. Each engagement, however, is treated separately, so you can't use three units in an encircling assault on one foe. Artillery units cannot execute ranged fire, which seems to remove the reason for having field guns present in the first place.

The keyboard control system is simple and works beautifully. When a unit flashes on the mapscreen, the player can elect to move it by pressing F7. A keyboard rosette allows movement in any of six directions. The computerist can move to the next unit by hitting F5. Pressing F3 before inputting the move command ends the human player's turn.

The tension in *War of the Worlds* comes from the fact that the defender's units are much weaker than the

Martians. Particularly at higher skill levels, the cylinders and tripods are bound to make headway in one or more sectors. The digital commander must learn to delay the tripods advantage while saving enough powerful units for periodic counterattacks.

## PASSPORT TO ADVENTURE

### GOTHMOG'S LAIR

Progressive Peripherals & Software, Commodore 64 Disk

Its manufacturer bills *Gothmog's Lair* as the first installment in its Pro Adventure series for the Commodore 64. It features audio effects, colorful animated visuals, and real-time play action. The program understands commands up to nine words long, though abbreviations are accepted. Adventure buffs searching for something different, take note!

Success depends on ingenuity, dexterity, and determination, not on playing word games. A list of recognized words, including their uses and consequences is enclosed. So are gaming tips, a fold-out map, and a dossier on the enemies lurking in this universe.

The programming isn't quite up to the concept in places. The wait between turns seems unusually long, and the terrain symbols are neither attractive nor eye-catching. It also seems like too much of a shortcut to use wargame-type symbols for the human troops, even though there's little noticeable difference between artillery and infantry. The simple combat system cries out for a more imaginative visual treatment. This is the first game ECG has reviewed by this publisher, best known to its non-electronic science-fiction strategy games. Task Force Games is miles ahead of most competitors when it comes to concept, but the publisher will have to develop a better feel for the added dimension which the computer brings to strategy games. Still, *War of the Worlds* is a promising beginning.

The flaws notwithstanding, *War of the Worlds* is a quick-playing strategy game that should appeal even to those gamers who normally don't enjoy military simulations. The situation is unusual, and seven skill settings let the game's challenge increase as the computerist's skill grows.

— Anne Katz

Games in progress can be saved to disk. This is a necessity due to the size and complexity of *Gothmog's Lair*. The score in this one-player, two-level novice and veteran game is based entirely on treasure values. No points are awarded for slaying monsters.

While trying to find the infamous Baron Ahnman's rantes and to clear your good name by returning them to the shrewd Rastler City, many puzzles have to be solved, objects uncovered and used, and creatures battled. When stuck for a solution, pressing F1 calls up Sam, a shoulder-straddling advice-offering gnome. He's right most of the time.

Beware of the thief and cutthroat above all else! They wander about freely, causing trouble, taking trea-

sures, and ambushing unsuspecting adventurers. Caution and quick wits are needed to survive, even at the so-called novice level.

Though not the most polished work of its type, *Gothmog's Lair* is unique enough to provide many hours of thought-provoking challenge and entertainment.

— Ted Salamone

### EXPEDITION AMAZON

Penguin, Apple II, 48K Disk

On first inspection, *Expedition Amazon* seems to be a fairly run-of-the-mill adventure game. There's a hungry-looking vulture perched on one of the tile letters. A couple of deadly snakes and a threatening spider menace the four candle-bound members of the expedition.

A closer inspection reveals a sense of humor. Piranhas at the bottom of the river, with a tablecloth and a picnic basket, a hippopotamus with a bib, an alligator with hand drill and an electric saw, with an electric saw plugged into his body.

The scenario starts in 1981 when Thomas Tarsand has discovered on his armadillo ranch, making him an instant millionaire. As a tax dodge, Tarsand founds Flint University, which has a one-man archaeology department with professor Jonathan Arrowhead. Arrowhead's only goal is to find the fabled lost city of Ka.

It is now your goal also, as the field assistant to hire a medic, a radio operator and a guard. Then the whole crew must fly to Quito to purchase needed equipment at the trading post and then ride the side-wheel paddle boat up the Amazon to base camp.

Your first job is to map each of 10 sectors of the jungle, covering enough of each to make the sectors out into a permanent part of your portfolio. There are treasures along the way, but it's necessary to go back to Quito to see them and buy more supplies.

After the team members have grown strong enough, the group can

begin to explore the tunnels beneath the pyramid. A hidden tunnel maze is supposed to lead to the lost city, depending on how crazy we think the professor is to be.

*Expedition Amazon* has nine difficulty levels and some stunning graphics. The game can be saved during play and the expedition can be reviewed at any time to show a find value of the accumulated treasure. An ER factor tells how well everything is going in general. Good luck and don't let the Indian with the suction cup arrows shoot you. It's too embarrassing.

— Rick Teverbaugh

## THINK TANK

### ARCHON II: THE ADEPT

Designed by Eric Falgout, Ark

Electronic Arts, Apple II, 64, 52K Disk

The team behind *Archon* (Ark's winner, Most Innovative Computer Game of 1984) and *Murder on the Zinderneuf* (nominated for a 1985 Arkie Best Electronic Strategy Game) adds another feather to its cap with *Archon II: The Adept*. This sword and sorcery strategy contest features the most popular elements from *Archon*, including the struggle for possession

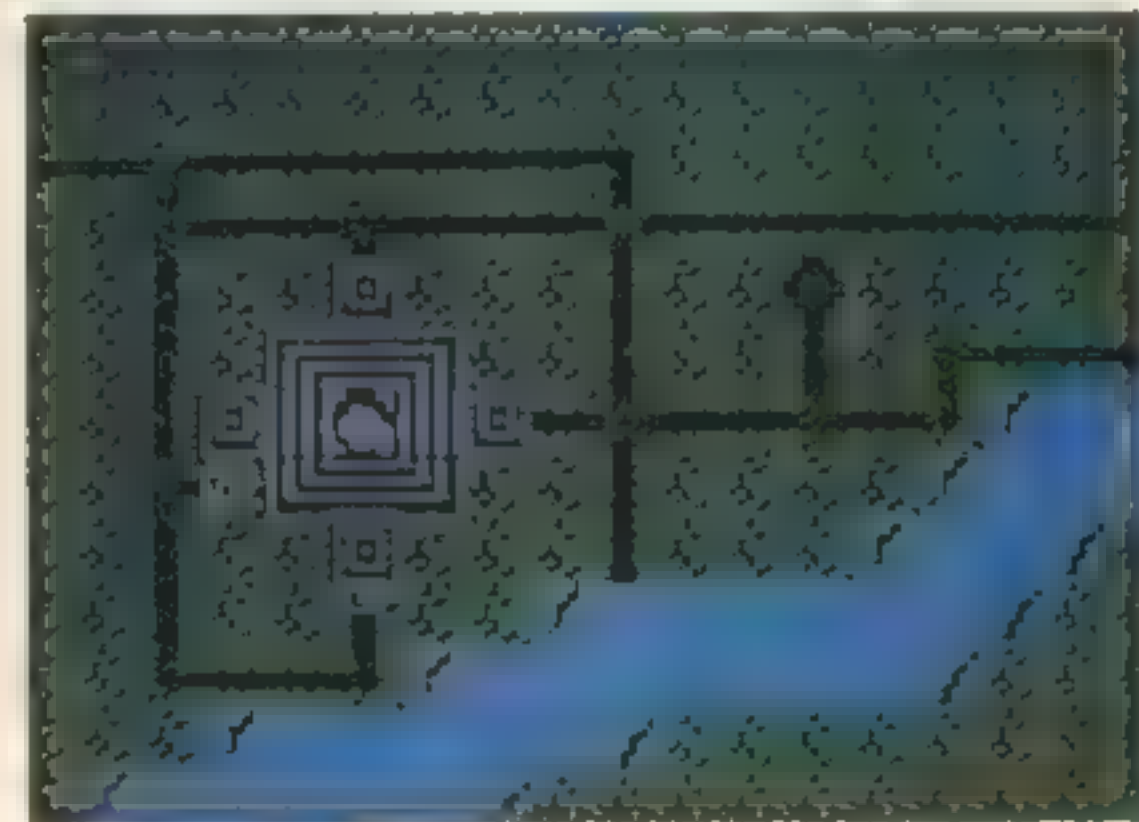
of power points, different characters with unique abilities, and two player head-to-head combat modes.

Adepts representing the forces of Order and Chaos square off on a playfield representing the four elements: earth, water, air, and fire. The first moves are to position one Adept in each of the elements, since a wizard can only summon magical beings to an element he or she occupies. Each turn, the Adept can either move or cast a spell. One spell, Summon, lets the mage choose either an elemental or a demon to add to the growing army.

Elementals are most at home in their natural surroundings. Moving a fire elemental to a water square is possible, but weakens the icon in battle. Demons, on the other hand, are equally at home in any of the elements, or in one of the two void zones. The Adept's total magic strength is decreased according to the strength of the character summoned.

To earn more magic strength, each Force must try to occupy as many flashing power points as possible. These shift from the corners of the different elements to neighboring elements each turn, though the void points remain stable. The objects to occupy are the power points on the board, or completely vanquish the enemy Force.

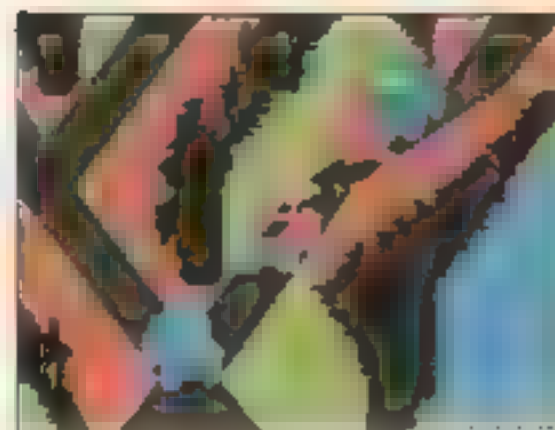
Spells available to each Adept include the aforementioned Summon



GOTHMOG'S LAIR: PROGRESSIVE PERIPHERALS

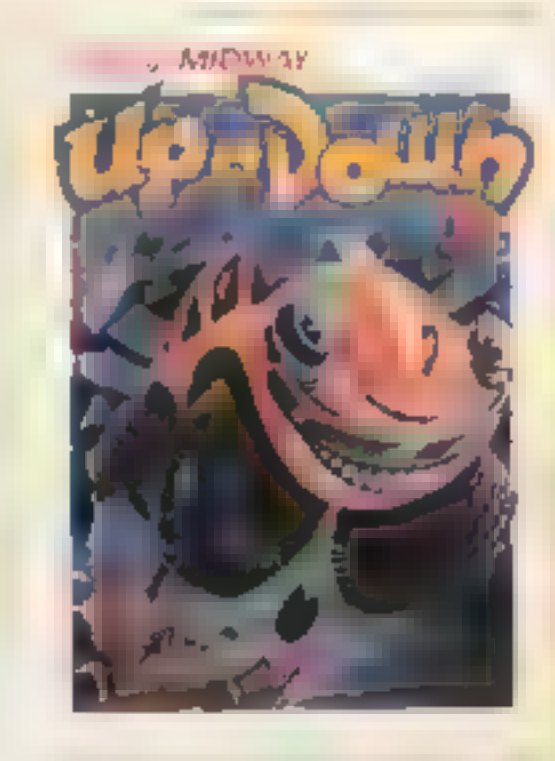


**WERE SUCH BIG HITS,  
THEM HOME.**



... **KEEPING UP & DOWN** ...  
... **THE REAL VASTNESS** ...

Are you strong enough to pay Tap-  
per's ransom? We think you probably  
already know the answer.



W) ARCADE H. PLO. 1/2 2. ON LIONS PO  
3. 1/2



Zeynep'in de bu konuda bir fikri yoktu. Bu yüzden de



On the other hand, the results of the present study suggest that the use of a single, standardized, and validated questionnaire is a more reliable and valid method for assessing the prevalence of mental health problems in a community sample.

[illegible]





ARCHON II: ADEPT (ELECTRONIC ARTS)

and Imprison, Heal, and Banish are other noteworthy sorceries. But Apocalypse is the game's most interesting surprise: when a side seems to be losing, the Adept can cast this to clear the board and take on the opposing forces in the form of one last magical blowout based on the amount of magic strength points left on each side.

The two-player mode is excellent. Each gamer is sure to develop a favorite character like the life-draining invisible demon Vvra th or the ultimate triple threat, the Chimera. Unlike its predecessor Archon, this program allows each gamer to choose his or her own difficulty level, evening up the sides between novices and pros.

The one-player game is a bit more frustrating at first; it seems impossible to win, but with a little practice it's too easy. Because the computer is as predictable as snow in February, its strategy remains about the same. Also, if the player comes too close to beating it, the computer casts an apocalypse-themed attack, and it's extremely accurate in battle.

Those who enjoy gaming with a friend will find this a great pastime. (Tracie Forman)

### 50 MISSION CRUSH

Strategic Simulations, Apple II, 48K Disk

You can almost feel the muscles tighten in your chest and the saliva dry

in your mouth as the B-17 carrying you and your crew taxis down the runway and takes off.

Your mission is to cross the English Channel, bomb the designated target, avoid the flak from the batteries on the ground, outduel the German Luftwaffe, and get home with crew and plane intact.

Sound complicated? Most definitely not. Sound entertaining? That's a big Roger!

**50 Mission Crush** is an air battle role-playing game for those who don't know a wing span from a wing tip. The game gives all the choices on screen in the form of easy-to-follow menus. The documentation is a so well-written and informative.

Getting there is most of the fun with this simulation. The game can be played with one or two players. Each pilot must name his crew, and this personalized attention, though it at first might seem bothersome, takes on a great deal of importance as you get closer to your target of 50 missions. The crew becomes part of the family, much like other role-playing games.

Just because the game is simple doesn't mean that it lacks a lot of detail. When attacked by an enemy plane, players can select one of eight types of German planes to encounter, each with different firepower and defensive abilities.

Fuel takes on an important role in the game. Should you skimp on fuel, to load up even more on your payload or play it the other way around so that you are more sure of getting home safely? There is even an option for overloading, which carries its own inherent risks.

As the crew gains in experience, there will be more difficult missions to fly, but the crew will also be more responsive to its duties and much more accurate in its findings.

The game can be saved at any time, and promotions from captain to brigadier general are awarded according to points accumulated on the missions.

If there is one complaint about the game, it's the length of time the game displays a fire on board or in one of the engines. It seems the flashing red bars across the screen go on forever. But forever might not be a bad description of how long **50 Mission Crush** will be played by any and all wargame or role-playing computer gamers who gather around your machine.

(Rick Teverbaugh)

### IT'S ONLY ROCK 'N' ROLL

Klei Software, Commodore 64 Disk

If you've always wanted to give you soul for rock 'n' roll, here's a chance to make the sacrifice vicariously without leaving the comfort of home. In **It's Only Rock 'n' Roll**, the gamer is a budding rocker who must form a band and lead it to the heights of musical superstardom.

Each of the contest's 60 turns represents one month, during which a band can try any one of eight activities listed on the on-screen menu. Generally, this choice leads to one or more subsidiary menus; if touring is selected from the main menu, for instance, the next screen lists possible tours. Pressing the appropriate key gets the player information about a particular tour, including number of concerts, duration, and anticipated income per engagement. When the band picks a tour, a text screen recaps the gig by gig progress. To win the game, the band must accumulate \$1 million, 1000 popularity points, 100 happiness points, and three status symbol possessions. A group usually starts out by playing free in the subways or on the streets until it generates enough popularity to justify a small tour. From

there, bands can elect to give concerts, make records, promote the act, or tour. Managers can help in many ways, but even the best of these tutorials sometimes dips into the blue. A music headline service sometimes provides warnings of such wrongdoing plus information about big opportunities and potential disasters.

**It's Only Rock 'n' Roll** hits a few wrong notes, too. The fact that the songs which the computer helps the bands write are random collections of notes sabotages the well-intentioned idea of allowing the gamer to view an animated performance. Watching the band in an appropriate setting is cute, but it gets old quickly. And it's frustrating to have to sit through an entire performance when there's no way to shortcut the music sequence once it starts. When a player accidentally types Y instead of N in response to the prompt which initiates this mode.

The Top 20 list evidences the same lack of foresight. Watching the best selling records count down from #1 to #20 is interesting exactly once. The wait seems endless when your group's songs are #3, but the program insists on presenting the next 16 hits one by one at a time before allowing the action to continue. The construction of the list is unfair, favoring the non-player groups. Why is the gamer's band the only one which can't place more than one song at a time in the Top 20? And changing the names of the non-player groups to reflect the U.S. recording scene wouldn't have hurt either.

On balance, the strengths of **It's Only Rock 'n' Roll** outweigh the deficiencies. The publication fix up could've made this disk a strong candidate for an Arkie. As it is, **It's Only Rock 'n' Roll** is an intriguing strategy game keyed to one of the most exciting pop fantasies of our age: becoming a Star.

Arnie Katz

### BRIDGE 4.0

Written by Arthur M. Walsh

Artwork: C-64 Disk

Attention every inveterate bridge player who's ever been frustrated by not being able to find a fourth, or even a second and third. This one's for you.

**Bridge 4.0** is a bit short in the visual



BRIDGE 4.0 (ARTWORK)

and sound departments, but it offers hours of first-rate play in what may well be the best card playing program around. It's even fast enough to double no redoubles, though, and smart enough to recognize and respond to Barkwood's drive-in, which is more than can be said for most human opponents.

**Bridge 4.0** is a one-player game based on the Charles Goren method of point counting and bidding, and assumes a good knowledge of the basics of the game. This is a trivia, and the computer never waffles on one of a hand away from the player, although it will give you a second chance if you make an illegal bid or reneg. It also lets you use frequently.

**Bridge** has no on-line graphics; the display of the hands looks exactly like the diagrams accompanying any newspaper bridge column. This may not be glamorous, but it's easy to interpret, and players can change the color of the screen border, text. Suits are represented by the common symbols, and a, hono, cards are through ten are represented by capital letters. The game is played using the keyboard, and players bid or play in a two-character format using only letters and numbers. For example, 2 would be 2 clubs in a bid, 2 clubs during play. KH is the king of hearts, and so forth.

The deal is determined by a random number generator which requires that players input a seed number between 0 and 999,999 before each hand. A few minutes with a handy pocket calculator will show that this yields somewhere in the neighborhood of 10 million hands. This ought to be enough to keep even Scheinwold and Goren busy for quite some time.

The player is always South with the computer bidding the other three hands until bidding closes with three passes in a row. The computer plays three hands, too. If either of the opponents takes the contract. However, if South or North take the bid, thus making the other dummy, the player plays both those hands and the computer plays the opponents. This can get a little confusing if South is not the dummy, since dummies don't play hands, no matter they go to the kitchen to get beer for everyone else.

During play, the screen always displays the player's and the dummy's hands, the bid at which the contract was taken, and the trick count to both sides. If things get too depressing, typing quit or just q will junk that hand, and a new hand will be dealt. The computer keeps track of the score both above and below the line; at the end of a rubber, when the score starts at zero again. The program also allows claiming and conceding (O) any remaining tricks.

Overall, the bidding, responses, and play are very much according to Hoyle. In this case, Goren. However, after each hand **Bridge 4.0** offers two interesting options you'll probably never hear at a real-life bridge table. Players can choose to play the game hand over again and try for a better score by remembering where trumps were, or the hands can be switched around. If this last option is chosen, the hand will be rebid, and there is no guarantee that North will bid East's former hand the same way East did originally. This option has the virtue of not depending on how you look at it of eliminating the classic excuse: just can't get good cards.

Louise Koh

### BARON

Blue Chip Software

Apple II, 64 KB, PC Disk

Still depressed because you didn't buy a Manhattan coop when they sold at \$10,000? This real estate brokerage game could be just the ticket to saving your ego without losing your shirt in the process.

The object of **Baron** is to increase net worth from a paltry \$15,000 to over \$1,000,000 by buying and selling property and investing wisely. The strategy game spans five fiscal years.



from January 1984 to January 1989.

Each month, the player views a real estate graph which charts the average progress of land, and residential and commercial properties in New York, California, Texas, Florida and Kansas. The financial journal prints out news of events that could have a bearing on property prices. Like HEWLETT PACKARD TO OPEN OFFICES IN KANSAS. After seeing more graphs which chart the player's own properties, the computerist is shown the current market value of all real estate investments, including the dollar amounts gained or lost by each. Asterisks mark properties selling at their high or low peaks.

After the formalities, it's on to the real meat of the game: buying and selling. A menu screen displays all the options available, including buy, sell, see portfolio, read news, see graphs or invest. Each option is accessed by a single key.

Nine properties are up for sale at any given time, though the really great values are often bought by computer-controlled companies after a turn or two. Cash poor? Take an option which gives the player up to six months to come up with the money—or to decide not to buy.

The idea of course is to buy low and sell high, though it's much easier said than done. It's an awful feeling to watch the California condo you bought at \$200,000 drop slowly below the \$90,000 mark, dragging your net worth down with it. Still, it's hard to beat the smug satisfaction of owning six Texas lots that set new records in real estate values.

Baron is such an outstanding absorbing game that it's easy to exaggerate its flaws. Like seeing Marilyn Monroe with a zit on her nose. For one thing, the player must access each mode through the menu, meaning that players who want to buy a property have to first leave the property description, then exit the buy screen, then enter a different mode, just to see how much cash is on hand. Also, the misspelling of the word "you're" (it's printed as "your") is annoyingly amateurish in such an adult-oriented game. And finally, though the game itself provides background for different regions, companies and financial terms, the instruction book could have

been less devoted to learning to play the game (it's really pretty simple) and more to explaining where Del Webb is located or who Coidberg is. While the references are taken from real life, it's wrong to assume that players are already knowledgeable about what these companies do and who they affect. These references should be easy to look up.

There's one major inconsistency in the game that completely suspends reality in spite of the obvious care taken to research the program. The player begins as a novice and has a total of five years to build a fortune. Barring some very lucky investments, few will reach the second Investor level, much less get all the way to Baron. To keep the game from being impossible, each time a new game is begun, the player gets to keep all the money previously earned. But when the new contest starts, it's 1984 again, meaning that computerists are playing with money they might have earned in 1986.

In spite of its problems, Baron is guaranteed to keep armchair brokers happily occupied for months. There's no greater fun than second-guessing the market—especially if you have nothing to really lose. Anyone who's ever fantasized about owning hundreds of acres of ranchland or an office in New York should invest in Baron. The dividends of fun and satisfaction pay off handsomely.

(Tracie Forman)



INTELLECTUAL DECATHLON (MOUSE)

## INTELLECTUAL DECATHLON

Muse, Apple II, 48K Disk

Games that take on Olympic-type formats are always popular—and trivia is getting a new lease on life through both boardgames and the electronic variety. If you think Intellectual Decathlon is a combination of both, you're heading the avenue in the wrong direction all together.

Intellectual Decathlon requires no factual knowledge. Rather, it takes a resourceful mind and a good memory to get close to a perfect score of 21,102.

Each of the 10 events includes practice time, with a score that can be added to a previous score or saved. There is no pause feature, but it's possible to go back and repeat all but one of the events and have the second total added to the accumulated sum. Here's a quick event-by-event run-down of what you're up against.

First there's Numberstretcher. The object here is to remember as many numbers as possible in the correct order after seeing a string of numbers displayed on screen. The strings start out with six digits and go up to 19. The event is over with three consecutive misses at a level. Scoring is based on the correctness of the entry and the time it took to remember the string. Total possible is 2,149.

Note the Notes comes second. The computer will play a short tune of 7-10 notes. The gamer can see the notes as



COMPUTER TITLE BOUT: AVALON HILL

judges and the referee declare the round using a 10-point system. When the margin of victory is 0.5, hitting points, each judge picks a round winner more or less randomly, so the bout usually goes to the fighter who gets the decisive upper hand in several stanzas.

The visuals are unworthy of this otherwise fine game, but Kimball's biggest goof was the misguided attempt to add color. A fighter makes a snappy comment with each thrown punch, printed right along with the

result of the attempted blow. There's a stock of a dozen or so quips, and they come up without rhyme or reason. Seeing Rocky Marciano say something like "Eat leather, you mother" soured the game in a hurry.

How much you like Computer Title Bout depends on how highly you value statistical accuracy versus other aspects of the game. Real stat freaks should enjoy it, but its defects reduce its appeal to rank and file computer gamers.

Arnie Katz

## ENTERTAINMENTS

### CROSSWORD MAGIC

Mindscape, Apple Disk

Puzzle enthusiasts can create their own crosswords using this unusual program. Choose the size specifications for the matrix, then the computer enters words on the grid in the available locations. It assists in creating the clue list, then prints out the puzzle clues and an answer code. Crossword Magic may not make everyone into a professional-caliber word puzzle designer—but it sure helps!

First the puzzler chooses the desired grid size, from 3 to 20 boxes square, if preferred. The computerist can opt for

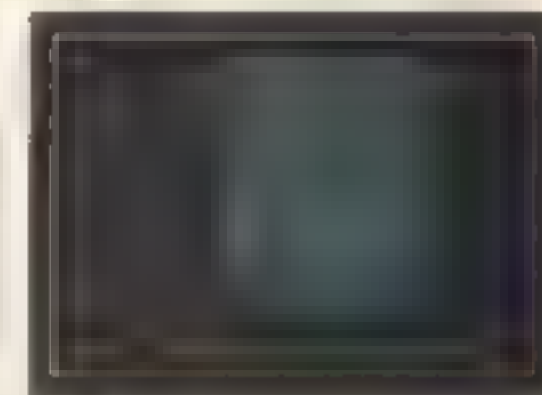
automatic puzzle sizing, this allows the computer to expand the parameters of the grid as needed. Then type a word and Crossword Magic automatically interconnects and enters it on the form. Move the word to different locations or discard it altogether.

After entering the words on the puzzle matrix, the user enters clues for each, guided by the microprocessor so none will be overlooked or skipped. Then review and correct any entries as needed, and play through a test of the puzzle to make sure it's just right. Finally, print out the creation or save it to disk to use again later.

Crossword Magic won't put the New York Times Sunday puzzle out of business, nor pose much of a threat to The Dell crossword puzzle magazines. The computer takes most of the work out of puzzle creation, but it still takes sharp mind to come up with a professional-quality challenge. It does a jolly dandy job taking a lot of the physical labor and much of the mental strain out of manufacturing crosswords.

The program fits new words into the matrix smoothly and effortlessly, allowing the creator to see all the locations where each word can be used, or telling the computerist that the word won't fit at all—in the latter case, the computer holds the word in memory until an opening appears, then automatically reintroduces it at the appropriate time.

This is something very different in the way of computer entertainments, since it actually lets the user create a diversion of his or her own. It turns the computer into a crossword factory.



CROSSWORD MAGIC (MINDSCAPE)

capable of churning out unlimited numbers of puzzles at exactly the skill level desired. No crossword crafter should be without it.

Crossword Magic is also available for the Atari, C-64, BM PC and PCjr computers.

Joyce Worley

### MOVIE MUSICAL MADNESS

Designed by The Dovetail Group  
CBS Software, Atari Cartridge

Be your own Busby Berkeley in control of lights, action camera and more, as you create an animated cartoon right on the computer screen. Movie Musical Madness puts the gamer in charge of a mini-movie set, cast as director, composer and choreographer in a musical extravaganza.





MOVIE MUSICAL MADNESS (CBS)

The gamer turns in color or black & white for those gamers who want to strive for a somber production after choosing one of three Jazz Scats to star in the scene. The Jazz Scats are the trio of bo boppers Ms. Swive Mps, Wahoo and Mr. Bassman who provide the action in the drama.

Next the gamer chooses props to decorate the set and create the background. There are stationary forms to build sky lines, fences, buildings, plants, streetlights and other fixtures. Moving props travel back and forth across the set while the movie is in progress such as a flying witch, a train and UFO's. The animated props stay where they're put, but have moving parts such as the puppy hopping up and down or an arch villain waving his cloak. Each scene can use up to 15 stationary props, and either one moving or one animated prop.

After setting the stage, the director adds musical accompaniment. There are 20 themes to choose from to add a cheery (or sinister) note to the movie.

Finally, the star comes onto the set using joystick and keyboard commands the gamer dances the Jazz Scat around the scene in actions that form the basis of the movie.

After shooting the scene, the computer director can either film another sequence in the mini-movie, call up the rushes to see what's been created so far, reshoot the scene to make corrections, or end the movie. When

it's finished, the playback will have a props in place, the musical accompaniment for each scene, and the star of the picture in center stage going through the gyrations the director has programmed.

*Movie Musical Madness* is a merry madcap sort of program. Designed for kids from about age 6 and over, it will nonetheless charm older computerists just as well as they build sets, pick the music, then guide the stars through their paces. The movies may never

## PEANUTS PICTURE PUZZLERS

Random House Apple Disk

The stars of these jigsaw puzzles come straight from the Peanuts comic strip, making this program a delight for kids ages 4 to 8. Lucy, Charlie Brown, Linus, Snoopy and all the rest of the gang are here. 12 characters in all, big as life and looking even better than they do in the funnies.

The computer randomly generates puzzles using the Peanuts characters in a total of 61 possible combinations, each featuring two of the well-known personalities created by Charles Schultz. Then the picture divides into the number of pieces selected: 4, 8 or 16.

First the screen displays the complete picture. After the puzzler has studied the image, the illustration vanishes, and white outlines of the puzzle pieces appear. Pieces of the picture are presented one at a time on the right side of the screen. The player moves a cursor over the outlined shapes using joystick or keyboard, until it's on the correct spot. If it's properly placed, a new piece appears. If not, a tone sounds, and the gamer gets



PEANUTS PICTURE PUZZLER (RANDOM HOUSE)

to try again. Or, the child can leave the cursor where it is and keep changing the puzzle pieces until a match is found.

When a puzzle is completed, magic happens. One of the pictured characters comes to life in a brief animated cartoon.

There are a lot of special features in the program that make it more challenging. In the four-piece mode, it's easy enough for tiny tots. Eight-piece divisions are tougher, and the sixteen-piece puzzles are for older kids. Although the program randomly selects pairings, the Peanuts characters you can create your own puzzles and choose the two characters you prefer.

The timing feature adds a dimension of excitement that makes this program entertaining even for adults. Set a time

limit: 10 seconds, 2 minutes, five minutes or 10 minutes. Choose your own, from 15 seconds to 12 minutes. There's a top ten scoreboard to each of the three skill settings.

The bonus, the program lies in the beautiful graphics and the delightful animation sequences that conclude each puzzle. The characters look exactly like they should, and the colors are bright and cheerful. The animation is simple, yet amusing. Charlie Brown makes goodie out of a bag, Patty lends a piano, and so on.

The program is easy to use, but parents will need to point the tip to get them started. State on screen instructions prompt the player on how to proceed. Once they've learned to use the joystick or keyboard, they do fine on their own.

Joyce Worley

# PLAYING IT SMART

## COAST-TO-COAST AMERICA

by Neosoft Inc.

CBS Software Apple Disk

*Coast To Coast America* contains five games to help learners age eight and up gain mastery of domestic geography. Developed by Neosoft, the game comes with a soft plastic overlay that fits over the console keys to make the program easy to use even for first-time computerists. The Neosoft Easykey Overlay features keys to choose skill levels and select the game. Most of the keys are for the 50 individual states, using postal abbreviations for each name. Finally, A, B and C keys give the responses to multiple-choice questions.

The first section of the program is *State Facts*, a demonstration of pertinent details that appear in response to pushing the key for any state. The state is highlighted in color on a U.S. map, and the computer displays the correct spelling of its name, its capital city, the year it became a state, its nickname, and the industry for which it is most well known.

*State Quiz* tests the knowledge gained in the demonstration. One

state is highlighted on the map for the computer to identify. Then the program asks multiple-choice questions about that state.

*Mystery State* is a geography detective. The user guesses which state the computer has selected. Then

receives a clue about the location of the correct answer. For example, the computer is thinking of Texas, and the student guesses Missouri. The computer highlights Missouri's location on the map, then hints. The *Mystery State* is Southwest of Missouri.

*Across the USA* is a challenge for computerists of all ages with three difficulty levels. The computer gives a starting point, then asks the student to chart a path to a goal, as directed by the microprocessor. The user has to move from state to state until the destination is reached. In the easiest setting, the map is displayed so it's easy to pick a route. The medium level only displays states on the map, so they are chosen so it's necessary to know a little more about geography in order to pick the shortest path. The most difficult setting doesn't display the map, or the starting point or destination, so users have to be able to visualize the country with no help.

There's even a primitive arcade-style game included in the program.

*State Shoot* displays a state on the screen in its correct position from the map. An arrow moves up and down the screen, and when it lines up with the state, pushing the space bar fires a point down. Pushing the space bar again poses the missile in preparation toward the target state. The distance the arrow travels across the map is determined by the length of time be-



COAST-TO-COAST AMERICA (CBS)



1

(Joyce Worley,

Designed by Kriva Systems Inc.  
Simon & Schuster Apple Disk

When the student tires of the tutor

JOYCE WORTEN

Designed by Tom Conrad  
Peachtree Software Apple Disk

Rabbit requires one player to guide

JOYCE MORLEY, G



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# HALL OF FAME

By THE EDITORS OF ELECTRONIC GAMES

The Terrific Ten have become the Distinguished Dozen thanks to the electronic gamers of America. The readers of ELECTRONIC GAMES Magazine have chosen two more all-time great titles to join the Hall of Fame.

The hundreds upon hundreds of readers who participated in this annual election spoke with surprising unanimity. Many famous games received appreciable support, but two crossed the finish line several lengths ahead of the rest of the pack.

This year's winners, based on more than 1,000 ballots submitted by rank-and-file gamers, are **Dragon's Lair** (Starcom) and **Miner 2049er** (Big Five/Micro Lab).

Tiger Reston. Other members of the Electronic Gaming Hall of Fame are **Asteroids**, **Defender**, **Donkey Kong**, **Major League Baseball**, **Pac-Man**, **Pong**, **Quest for the Rings**, **Space Invaders**, **Star Raiders**, and **Zaxxon**.

Top vote-getters among the runners-up were **Burger Time**, **Joust**, **Pitfall**, and **Pitfall II**. This is the second close-but-no-cigar year for both **Joust** and **Pitfall**. Can they come back next year and, with a little stronger support from their partisans, go over the top? The honor continues to elude several titles which showed up well in last year's voting, like **Centipede** and **Tempest**, but neither game is totally out of the running. **G**



BURGER TIME (MATTTEL)



PITFALL II (ACTIVISION)



7800 JOUST (ATARI)

## The Hall of Fame

You can't travel to someplace like Cooperstown or Canton, the respective sites of baseball's and football's shrines, to visit the Electronic Gaming Hall of Fame. Like the energy impulses of which the games themselves are composed, the Hall of Fame can't be seen or touched. We more con-

ventionally edifices.

No, the Electronic Gaming Hall of Fame exists as a concept in the minds of game-lovers from coast to coast. You don't even have to leave your computer station (or that comfy chair) just think about the great gaming milestones of the past and pre-

sently you're there. This arrangement saves Reese Communications—which sponsors the annual Hall of Fame vote—a bundle on heat, electricity and maintenance. And you don't have to repaint a concept every few years, either.

And computers are the key

# WINNERS

Voters Elevate Two Classic Titles



DRAGON'S LAIR  
(Starcom)

In a sense, the **Dragon's Lair** coin-op, designed by famed animator and filmmaker Don Bluth, rescued the arcades in even more amazing fashion than **Duke the Daring** saves the princess in the game. The interest in the amusement centers had reached a low for this decade when **Dragon's Lair** burst forth in a laserdisc glory. It wasn't long before enterprising arcade operators were drawing crowds by putting up special monitors for onlookers to follow the unfolding action.

Despite its essentially simple branch-free plot construction, **Dragon's Lair** proved utterly compelling. Many gamers stuck to the controls until they fought—and thought—their way to the dramatic conclusion.

Making the success of this title even more incredible is the fact that Don Bluth had never before designed an electronic game. Coin-op lovers ran only with their hands in eager anticipation of what Bluth may create in years to come.



MINER 2049ER  
(Big Five, Micro Lab, Reston, Tiger)

Last year **Miner 2049er** won a landslide victory as Electronic Game of the Year. Now this delightful, multi-screen climbing and jumping game has ascended the next rung on the ladder of fame in the same high style by coasting to a triumph in the Hall of Fame voting.

Designer Bill Hogue injected a strong element of strategy into his action-game framework to produce one of the most continuously fascinating computer games ever to flash on a monitor.

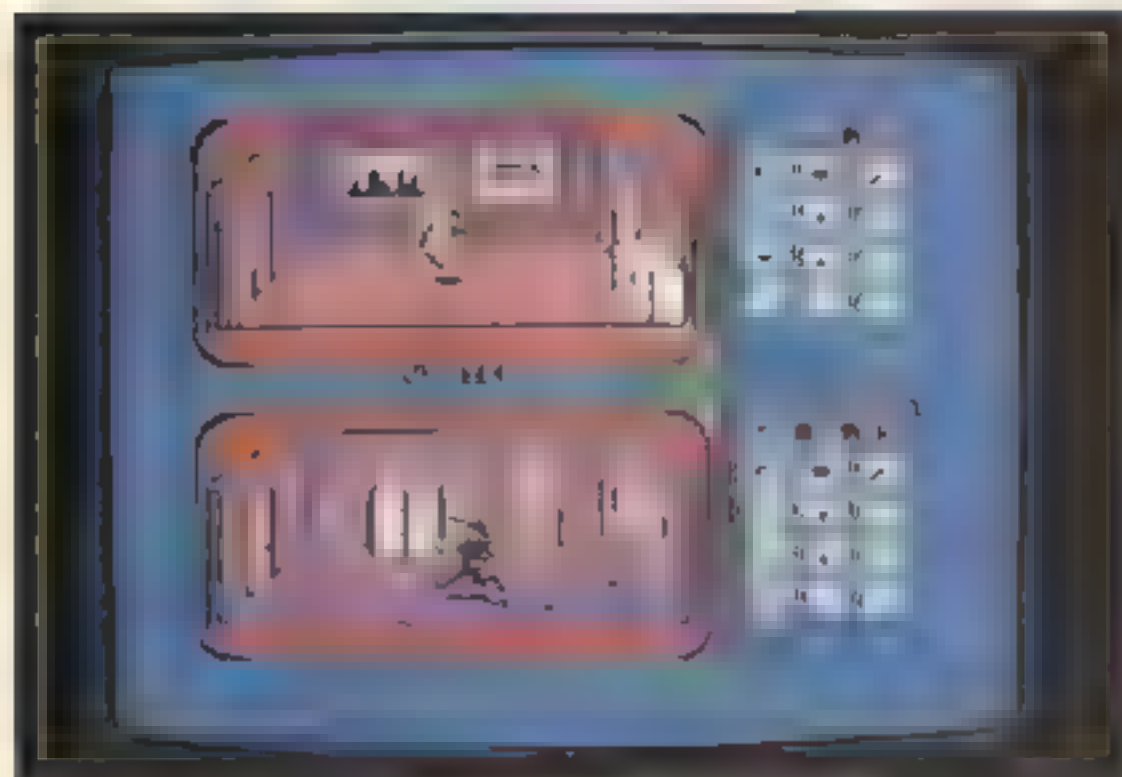
**Miner 2049er** has historical significance as well as intrinsic value. It was the first electronic game designed expressly for the home market which could be placed on almost every videogame and computer system. The multi-publisher licensing, orchestrated by C&G, made **Miner** the first home game to acquire a hobby-wide reputation on a par with the leading games found in the family amusement centers.

Bounty Bob lives!



# GameSpot

## The Lighter Side Of Espionage



SPY VS. SPY (FIRST STAR)

### SPY VS. SPY

Designed by Mike Riedel  
First Star Apple, Atari  
Commodore 64 Disk

Remember those incredible cartoons in MAD Magazine about the two secret agents? Month after month, the little guys in the contrasting spy suits would execute convoluted plots to get the upper hand at the other's expense. Antonio Prohias' *Spy vs. Spy*, created in 1960 and still running in MAD today, ranks as one of the great post-WW II cartoon creations.

This one- or two-player action strategy contest is playable on its own terms, really captures the zany mayhem of the strip. Game action actually mirrors the antics of Prohias' characters.

Having broken into a foreign embassy, the spies compete against time and each other to find the secret plans and make a getaway in a waiting plane. To win the game, a spy must collect a passport, traveling money, the key and the plans in a satchel and leave the building through the one and only exit.

Although the software version is good, *Spy vs. Spy* really shines in the head-to-head mode. A horizontally split screen lets players see what the rival agent is doing while still monitoring the progress of their own man. The White Spy is shown in the top half display while the Black Spy reigns on the lower portion of the screen. The white-garbed figure is always controlled by a human gamer, while the black-cloaked one can be guided by

either another gamer or the computer.

The program automatically recognizes the possibility of hand-to-hand combat. When the spies approach within a few paces of each other, the program switches to a half-screen view which includes both characters and puts a club in each combatant's hand.

The number and arrangement of rooms varies with the difficulty, but there are at least nine. At harder settings, split-level embassies make their appearance. At the novice level, arrows called "bread crumbs" by the designer help a spy trace the path he has taken through the room complex.

The game has simultaneous movement as well as display. Players move the spies from room to room using the joystick. They can search for hidden items, set or foil traps and even engage in hand-to-hand fighting.

The main strategic element derives from the Trapulator, located to the right of the actual playfield. Pushing the action button twice gains access to the icons, each of which represents a different type of trap. The computerist moves the cursor with the stick until it covers the desired option and then takes the device by pushing the button. The player then positions the spy next to the hiding plane and, after a confirming white flash, hits the screen, pushes the button once to hide it.

Since there is a remedy for each trap except the time bomb hidden somewhere in the embassy, *Spy vs. Spy* becomes a duel of wits in which agents collect — and often retrieve — the prizes while trying to defeat their op-

ponent with well-placed traps. In homage to the comic strip, when one spy gets caught by a snare, the other laughs hysterically.

The artwork is fully worthy of this entrancing contest. It's bright, colorful and entirely appropriate to the tongue-in-cheek tone of the original *Spy vs. Spy*.

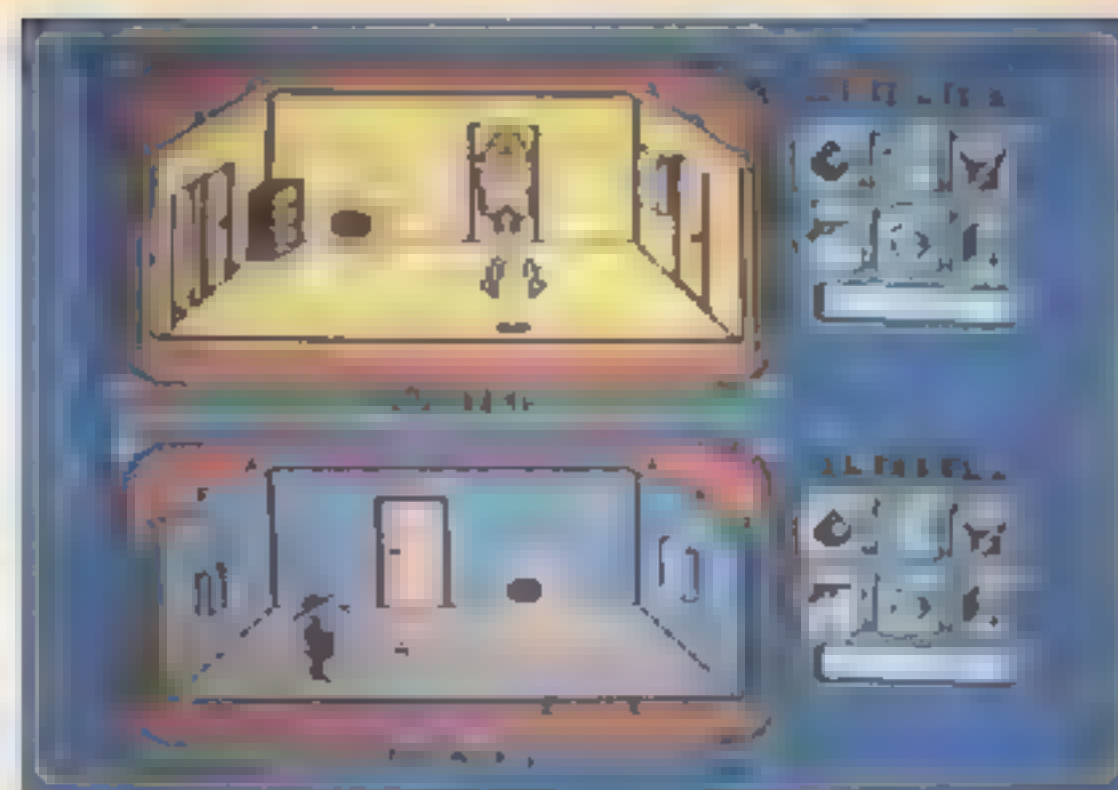
Competitive two-player computer games are quite rare. This is, perhaps, the best one ever designed. *Spy vs. Spy* is easy to learn, but like all really good strategy games, it requires much practice to master. The fluidity of play, with spies constantly pulling off offensive and defensive maneuvers, gives this one a stratospheric excitement level.

So, put on that trenchcoat and start "working."

### THE CARE AND FEEDING OF A HOT LICENSE

Professional football players hop from city to city in sleek jetliners. Minor leaguers rumble from town to town in buses. This comparison could not have been lost on Mike Riedel when First Star picked him to turn the *Spy vs. Spy* comic strip into a computer action strategy game.

Although Mike is a relatively ex-



SPY VS. SPY (FIRST STAR)

perienced programmer who has worked on several games, *Spy vs. Spy* is his first solo project for a major league software publisher. Talk about putting everything on one roll of the dice.

A cynic might have low-rated Riedel's chances of success. Not only do games based on licensed properties have a poor track record, but circumstances dictated the Riedel would have

to work his wonders in four months instead of the more usual six to eight.

Riedel has clearly triumphed over these obstacles by creating a fantastic program. In the process, he has vaulted into the first rank of game creators.

To insure faithfulness to the original strip, Riedel began work by immersing himself in *Spy vs. Spy*. He read every

Mike Riedel, game designer, with his latest magnum opus, *Spy vs. Spy*, on screen.





# GAME OF THE MONTH

paperback collection he could find trying to get the essentials firmly implanted in his brain. The key thing for me, he notes, was to keep the game true to its Spy origins.

At the outset, the only thing of which Riedel was certain was that Spy vs. Spy should be a strategy contest rather than the more traditional type of straight action game. Shoot 'em ups were dead, Riedel explains, so there was no point in developing another one.

The first thing you notice in the strip is the fact that the spies are always watching one another, which seemed to rule out a standard alternating turn play mechanic. At one point during the development, did toy with the concept of having one player run through the maze setting the traps, while the other player waited his turn. But it just didn't work. For one thing, who wants to sit waiting, while the other player walks around laying snares?

Thus was born a fascinating innovation: simultaneous play. By dividing the screen into two playfields, gamers can play at the same time that they watch their opponent. A single-screen mode was created to handle face-to-face physical confrontations.

Also, Mike recalls, "you notice that in the strip the settings are always different. In a game, this wasn't realistic. I had to have boundaries, and an office-banking style layout seemed like the way to go."

Then too, the traps in the strip are also incredibly varied, but this couldn't be translated into a game format

which requires greater structure. At one point, I had a mix of the icon keys on the trapdoor designated for traps, but it soon became obvious that people couldn't orient themselves within the rooms unaided, so the sixth key became the map.

The traps went through several changes. Early on, I had a knife trap, which was similar to the gun, except



SPY VS. SPY (FIRST STAR)

that this was a reaction trap—the spy had to step aside to avoid being hit. The spring trap was developed quite late, actually, but it worked out very well. In fact, if you set it up right, the spy can be sent flying through room after room until he finally hits a wall.

Mike is very much the typical electronic gamer, especially in his fondness for the little touches, the

"gimmicks" as he calls them, which can add so much for a contest's play value. When a spy is electrocuted, for example, his skeleton becomes briefly visible before he goes up in smoke. Then, after a spy is zapped, the little guy sprouts angelic wings and flutters heavenward. His opponent meanwhile chortles heartily, gloating over the temporary one-upmanship.

The airport sequence, a real eye-ba-popper, was a milestone around Mike's neck during the intensive design period. He knew he had to have something outstanding for a caper, and it seemed only natural that after managing to collect the bag full of spy-type goodies, the victorious cloak-and-dagger artist would make for the airport and zip off.

I think they were getting a little nervous. Mike says with a barely suppressed look of mischief, referring to the folks at First Star. As the publisher, First Star was investing a hefty slice of the company's resources in this project; it had to be hot, and it obviously needed a socko finish.

Just kept assuring them that there was going to be this terrific airport sequence. No problem. But I had absolutely no idea what I was going to do, just knew it would involve the airport.

What ultimately evolved is a stroke of genius. Once all the objects have been assembled in the black bag, the door to the airport appears.

Early on, Mike explains, "realized that if the door to the runway became visible before all the objects were assembled, one spy could simply stand in front of the portal, wait for his opponent to pick up all the objects, then engage in combat and attempt to

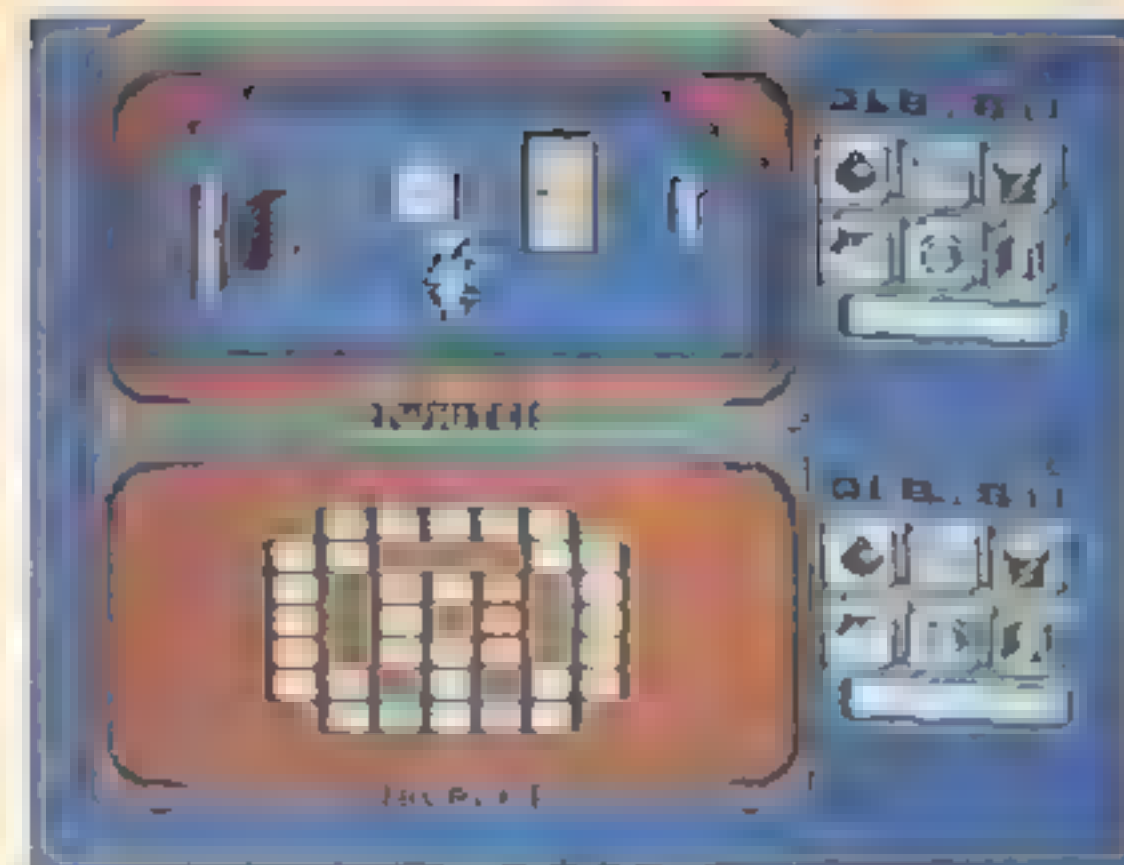
take the whole bag as the busy spy reached the exit."

Try to get through that door without all the secret goodies and meet another of Mike's gimmicks: a massive bouncer who not so tenderly ejects the errant spy. But get out with everything and a real visual treat awaits. Boarding a small single-engine aircraft, the victorious spy takes off and actually leaves the confines of his micro playfield, then soars out over the trapdoor and offscreen. After having established the miniscreens as the borders of our game-reality, this departure from a pre-established context is a small delight—a triumph in recreating the wacky out-of-bounds Mad Magazine spirit in computer form.

Mike Riedel represents the new breed of designer. He works on the C-64, using his own art utility program to create his high-quality graphics. (Someday, I sell the thing, he mentions offhandedly.) He doesn't do his own financial negotiating, leaving his business management to Desi, Net-



Mike Riedel looking for inspiration



SPY VS. SPY (FIRST STAR)

work, a New York-based firm that also handles Christopher Chance, and several other top designers. He differs from most of the newer team-oriented software weavers in his ability to complete an entire game concept to code.

There are some intriguing parallels between the lives of Riedel and Prohias, creator of Spy vs. Spy. Although in his early 20s, Riedel arrived in the States at just about the same time Prohias did, 1963, also fleeing a country torn by political tension. Germany, Mike has expressed an interest in meeting Prohias, but the cartoonist still speaks the English and lives in Florida, while Mike resides in the suburbs of New York City.

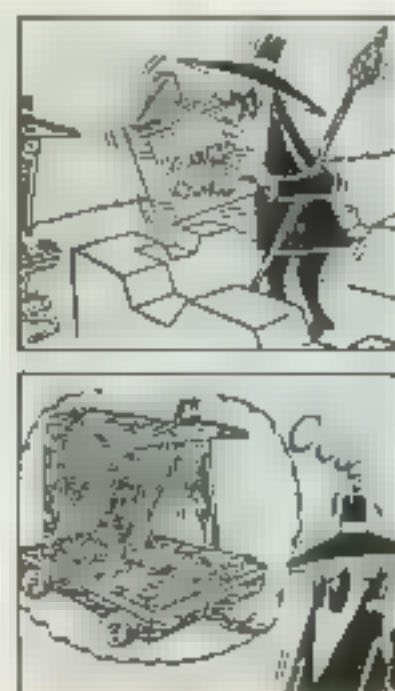
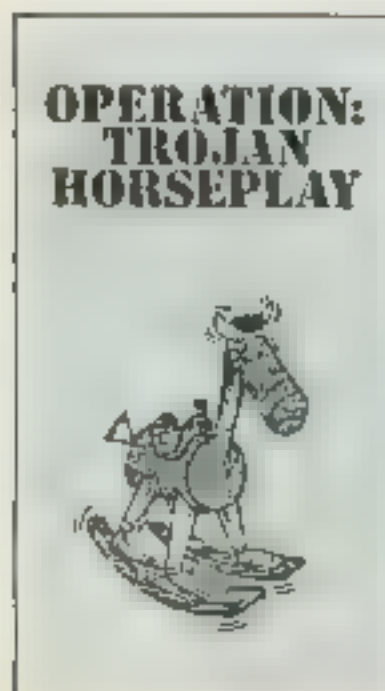
Mike Riedel has been around, and he's paid his dues. He's plugged away

at translation, and created interesting software for companies that were unable to promote, to even stay in business. Now at last, his big opportunity has arrived.

He's grabbed it with both hands, run it up on the trapdoor, and come up with a cloak-and-dagger masterpiece.

## MIKE RIEDEL'S HINTS FOR NOVICE SECRET AGENTS

The interactive nature of Spy vs. Spy keeps the game from settling into well-charted ruts. Thus, you can toss any idea about perfect plans to wind this game right out the window. Quite the contrary, the interrelationships among the various elements of the





# GAME OF THE MONTH



The airport and a getaway

game should provide ample grist for many articles analyzing strategy and tactics.

At this point in time, there's no one more authoritative about *Spy vs. Spy* than its designer, Mike Rieder. So that's where *EC* went to get some solid advice on how to improve the odds that your spy will be the one to fly off into the sunset with those secret plans.

The first thing a novice should do is study the trapmaker. Every trap—except the time bomb—has a countdown measure. For instance, the proper response to the bucket of water over the door is an umbrella. The remedies for traps are a ways to be found in the same place within the complex.

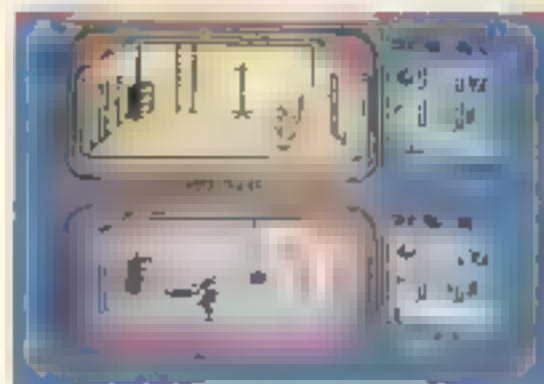
This last fact can be the basis for setting up some fiendish snares of your own. When you locate the response to

a trap, rigging that room with the trap in question practically forces your opponent to get caught sooner or later.

The difference in skill levels isn't really speed. The higher the level, the more sophisticated will be the tactics employed by the computer-controlled spy. Varying the level periodically is an excellent time-up for play against a human, who after all is unlikely to be quite so predictable.

When gamers first start playing *Spy vs. Spy*, they usually concentrate on collecting all the needed items as quickly as possible without much reference to what the other agent is doing at the time. This may beat an other newcomer, but *Spy vs. Spy* vets know that setting lots of traps is just as important if not more so. Remember that the spies are timed independently. Since getting caught by a trap uses up precious seconds, it's possible to simply wear down a foe and then finish the game up quickly once your rival's time has run out.

Another tip for tyro trappers: always close doors behind you. It makes the other spy pause to think twice before bursting into a room. Not only does this slow down your adversary, but it helps mask the fact that some of those closed doors hide clever traps.



Clock-and-dagger skullduggery

Watch the breadcrumbs if they're available on the level being played. They can help you guide your spy through the entire complex more rapidly and efficiently by reducing the possibility of inadvertently retracing steps and hitting the same rooms again.

Two-story embassies have an added complication which may not be obvious at first: it is sometimes necessary to go back downstairs and find another staircase to reach parts of the top floor.

To say much more at this juncture might kill some of the fun of finding the subtleties which designer Rieder has lovingly inserted in this program. So buckle up your trenchcoat, pull the fedora low over your eyes to create the aura of menace, and let's go spying. E

## WOZ: THE PRODIGAL SON OF SILICON VALLEY

By Doug Carr, Avon Books  
Paperback \$3.75

Even computerists aren't immune to the human yearning to know about roots. Doug Carr, editor of *VIDEO*, dons his journalist's cap to profile one of the most celebrated, yet enigmatic, home computer pioneers: Steve Wozniak. Almost everyone has heard of the fabulous Woz, either in connection with Apple or the Us Festivals, but the details which turn a legend into a flesh-and-blood being have gone largely unreported.

This 155-page biography fills the



gap with a well-researched account of Wozniak's life and times. Carr strikes a good balance between providing specifics about his subject and burying the narrative under lots of techie talk. The book doesn't contain every conceivable fact about Steve Wozniak, but it hits the essentials and accurately positions Woz in the overall computer movement. And it seldom bogs down

in outright hero worship.

It's pretty obvious that Wozniak is an intensely private individual. Carr only partially succeeds in producing a rounded picture of the computer kingpin's personal side. On the other hand, the writer makes a real effort to delve into the human motivation behind such projects as the Apple computer. This in turn makes it easier for the reader to understand the flow of events and some of the reasons why microcomputing has developed as it has.

**Woz: The Prodigal Son of Silicon Valley's** entertaining work. It sets solid standards for journalistic accuracy, yet it's a good read as well.

—Steve Davidson

## Two Well-Kept Secrets That Every 5200 Owner Should Know About



A must for all 5200™ owners. Joystick Jockey, March 1984

With the Masterplay 5200™ interface, nothing will stand between you and the fun and enjoyment of your 5200™ videogaming.

Arena, May 1984



FOR ATARI 5200

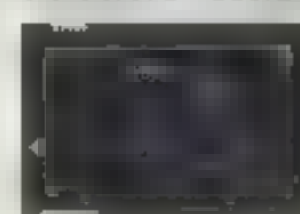
Meteorites is a fast-paced game for the Atari 5200™ game. Atari, Inc. The Video Game Update, June, 1984

Meteorites is a tough 24-level game with enough in every department to satisfy even the most die-hard Quiverer atomizer smasher or outer space grazer. Electronic Games, October 1984

## Now use any Joystick on the Atari 5200™ Supersystem!

Finally, using the joystick with the Atari 5200™ controller works. The Masterplay 5200™ Interface allows you to select from the hundreds of joystick games currently available for the Atari 2600™ and use them with your Atari 5200™ Supersystem. You'll be overwhelmed by how well your 5200™ plays Pac-Man and your other arcade favorites when you use the Bidirectional Self-orienting type controllers these games were designed for and equipped with in the arcades. The Masterplay 5200™ interface maintains all the 5200™ keyboard functions and comes complete with an auxiliary line button which substitutes for any joystick for games which use two buttons. Masterplay 5200™ Interface \$16.95

## A meticulous rendition of an arcade classic.

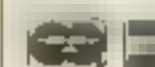


Meteorites is a gaming masterpiece designed by game players to bring home a level of game playability never before seen outside an arcade. It bypasses the Atari 5200™ SPRITE hardware and generates up to 60 independently moving objects on the screen with no annoying flicker. Answering the game player's most common complaint, Meteorites provides 24 incremental game levels for a virtually never-ending challenge.

Meteorites

\$23.95

To Order: Send check or money order for \$16.95 per Masterplay 5200™ Interface, \$23.95 per Meteorites Cartridge or \$34.95 for both products to Intellicon • P.O. Box 774 • Kendall Sq. Bldg. Cambridge, MA 02142. Write to this address with any questions regarding our products. Be sure to add \$2.00 shipping and handling. Massachusetts residents must include 5% sales tax.



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# THE MUPPETS INVADE MICROPOLIS



By JOYCE WORLEY

First they were victors in video, then they hobnobbed in Hollywood. They've even menaced Manhattan. Now Jim Henson's Muppets are on the move again, mastering microcomputers with all their zany antics.

It's a project that spans several companies. Unlike most license deals featuring stars from other media, the Muppets aren't tied to any one manufacturer. Simon & Schuster, Koala Technologies, Broderbund Software, and Sunburst have all inked deals with the Muppets for a variety of entertainment and educational products.

Simon & Schuster turned to Joyce Hakansson Associates, a leading educational software design house, for two learning-to-read programs starring the Muppets.

Joyce and the Hakansson team worked with Simon & Schuster, Henson Associates, and the Muppet Creators to form the Muppet Institute of Technology for Simon & Schuster, a series of software that makes learning fun.

**Kermit's Electronic Storymaker** (Apple, Commodore 64, Jet's Junior

computers) select words to form complete sentences which are then acted out. The sentences start very simply but always make grammatical sense even if they're a little wacky, since they combine a noun with a verb. For example, "Kermit jumps" produces a picture of that froggy puppet hopping up and down. Add a descriptive phrase like "Kermit jumps on the moon" for a picture of Kermit leaping around a lunar landscape. All four

main Muppet characters are represented, as well as a variety of vehicles, objects, landscapes, and a lengthy list of verbs.

**The Great Gonzo in Word Rider** (Simon & Schuster, Apple C-64), is an adventure for children seven and over who already know how to read. Kids add combining adjectives and nouns, then Gonzo is the driver in a cross-country race to where Camilla the Chicken, his fowl friend, is imprisoned in a far-off castle.

Broderbund Software's **Welcome Aboard: A Muppet Cruise to Computer Literacy** (Apple) is a home education program for kids and adults. Captain Kermit guides computer sailors on a cruise that combines word processing, telecommunications, database management, programming, computer-aided design, and games. First pilot the ship around islands using computer programming under Kermit's tutelage. Then Scooter helps word process messages to the five Muppet characters. Replies are received on the ship's printer. Computer-aided design techniques help redo Miss Piggy's wardrobe. Fozzie helps the user explore his database



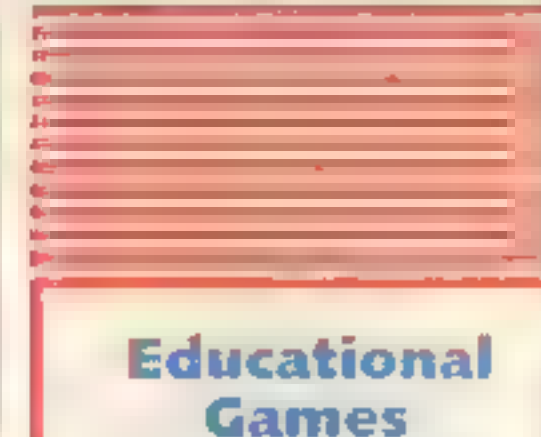
THE MUPPET DISCOVERY DISK (KOALA)



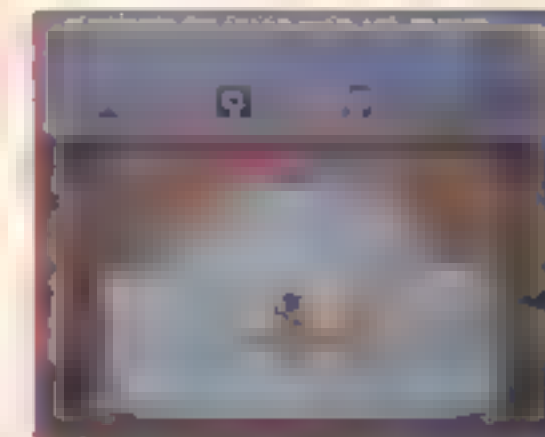
KERMIT'S ELECTRONIC STORYMAKER (S & S)



THE GREAT GONZO IN WORD RIDER (S & S)



## Educational Games Flow Forth From Muppetland



KERMIT'S ELECTRONIC STORYMAKER (S & S)

of bad jokes written by Henry Beard, former editor of *The New Yorker*, lampoon and a humorist. Miss Piggy's guide to the "Fabulous Fashionable" keeps his wardrobe in a Muppet-style mode. In the "Game Room," the Muppets make the fun of playing games easy. The "Muppet Library" program permits interactive experimenting on the user's personal database.

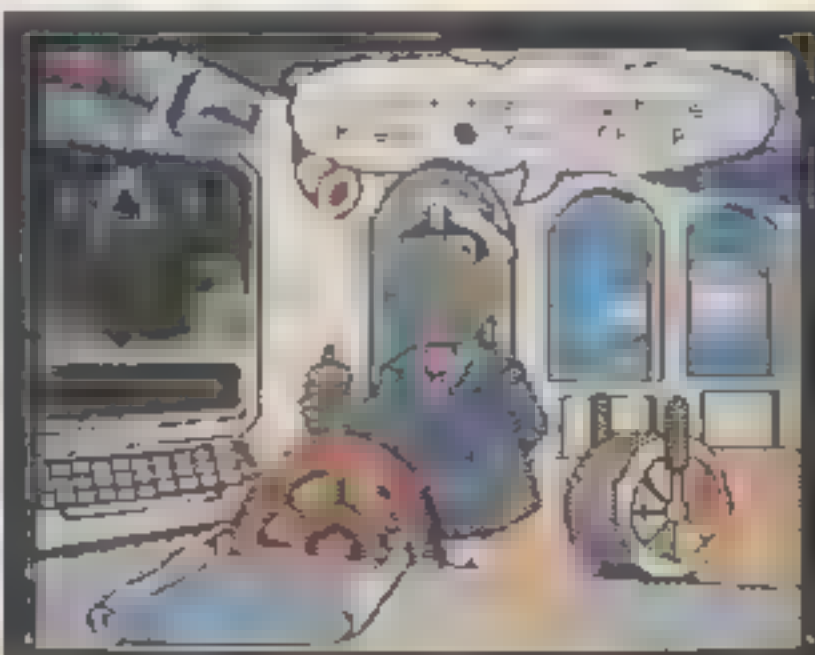
Koala Technologies' **Muppet Learning Keys** (Apple C-64) is a child-friendly keyboard that plugs into the joyport to help youngsters use the computer. This jelly-proof, mylar-surfaced pad features oversized keys

in alphabetical order, plus number and color keys, and function buttons like go, stop, and erase.

Sunburst Communications created the preschool learning software included with the **Muppet Learning Keys**. The **Muppet Discovery Disk** from a design team headed by Marge Kose has three programs to help kids master some primary learning functions while learning to use the keypad.



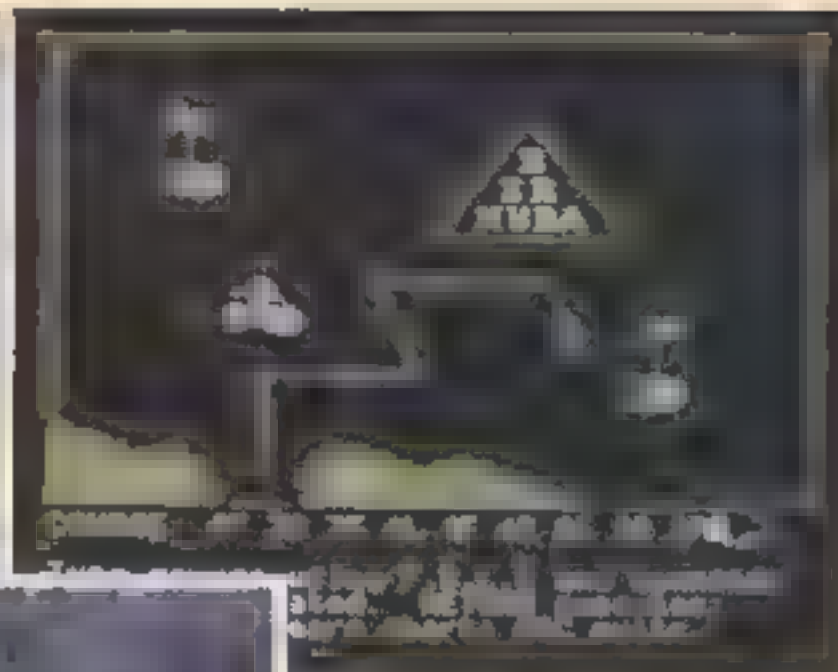
WELCOME ABOARD (BRODERBUND)







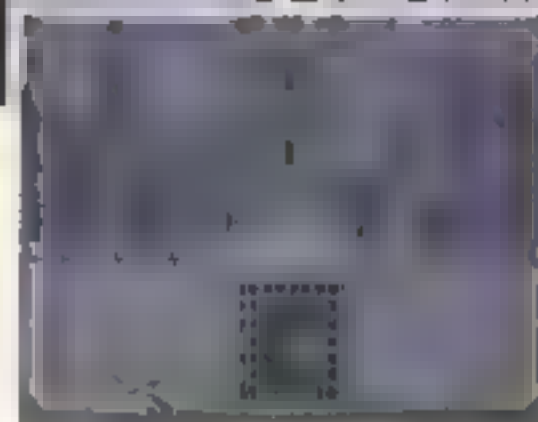
WELCOME ABOARD (BRODERBUND)



WELCOME ABOARD (BRODERBUND)

## MUPPETS

'Discover' helps beginners learn the alphabet. Press any letter to get a picture of an object like 'S' for socks. The number keys produce multiples of the terms and the color key changes the color. Then press the go button, and see the objects animate. The other



THE GREAT GONZO IN WORD RIDER 'S & S'

two programs on the Muppet Discovery Disk help kids perfect letter and number recognition skills. The first

teaches upper and lower case letters, and the other helps users learn how to count. The disk is menu-operated by clever pictures, so pre-readers can manage it with no help.

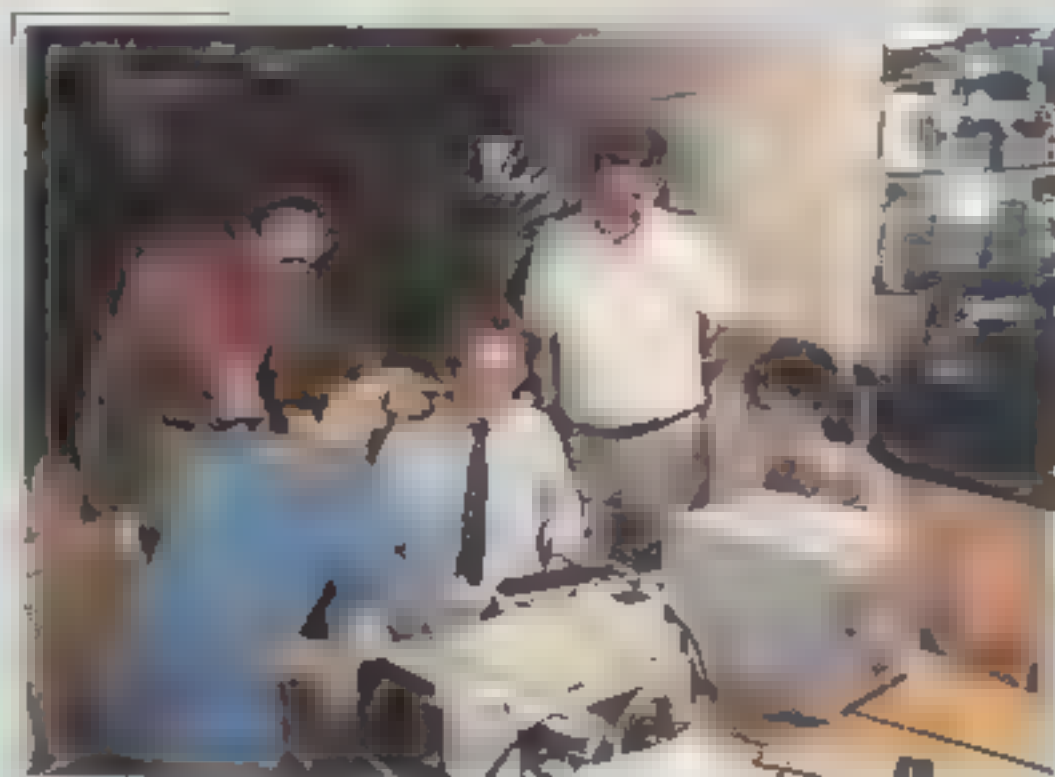
The Muppets are definitely on the march, and by the grace of Miss Piggy and the talented design crews working with her and the other Henson characters) will probably invade your computer soon.

### THE BRODERBUND BRASS

Welcome Aboard is the only Muppet program that's for both adults and children. It introduces new computerists to word processing, databasing, programming, and more.

Crocket Bird was the Project Manager who struggled to keep all the pieces together, making certain that the program's creators had everything they needed to work. George (Story-Tree Bracket) was the overall designer and Gene (Bank St. Writer) Kusmiak was the chief programmer. Franklin Bank St. Writer, Smith actually assembled the team, then oversaw its operations, and Gene Portwood was the head man in charge of graphics and animation. Marty (The Print Shop) Kahn designed the arcade contest in the Muppet Game Room. Chris Cerf was Creative Director, and he and Sheila Kinney worked closely with Henson Associates making sure the Muppets maintained their well-known personalities.

Keeping the spirit of the Muppets intact even as they performed the tedious tasks of instructing gamers in computer literacy was one of the most



Left to right: George Brackett, Gene Kusmiak, Christopher Cerf, Gene Portwood and Sheila Kinney of Henson Associates.

important goals of the team. Gene Portwood says, "I think we've captured the humor and charm of the Muppet characters in this new educational medium."

Gary Carston summed up the general feeling: "We've got everyone at Broderbund has for the Muppets, saying, 'We plan to invite Miss Piggy and Kermit to our company picnic.'"

### CHRISTOPHER CERF

Christopher Cerf, an award-winning author, humorist, composer and lyricist, is the man behind the Muppets' electronic publishing efforts. Chris met the Muppets when he was with the Children's Television Workshop in 1970, organizing that company's efforts to market items based on Sesame Street and The Electric Company. Now Chris represents Henson Associates on behalf of the Muppets.

Chris has about as many credits to his own name as the Muppets do. He graduated cum laude from Harvard in 1963, where he was Vice President of the Harvard Lampoon. Chris helped found The National Lampoon in 1970 and wrote dozens of articles for the Lampoon in the years that followed. He is a trustee of the Bank Street College of Education. He authored the famous newspaper parody, Not The New York Times, in 1978. His current book, The Experts Speak, co-edited with Victor Navasky, was published by Pantheon Books in mid-1984. He won Playboy Magazine's Best Humor award in 1970 and has also won awards for excellence in toy design. A multi-talented creator, Chris also makes marks for himself in the music world. He's won two Grammy Awards in 1972 and 1977, and was nominated for two more Grammys in 1984 for Born To Add, a collection of rock songs from Sesame Street.

His own firm, Christopher Cerf Associates, consults and creates products, books, records and computer software for such companies as Fisher Price Toys, Warner Bros. Toys, and The Muppets. Chris also worked with Sierra on the Gorfing Adventure based on Henson's movie, The Dark Crystal.

Chris springs from a multi-talented family. His father, the late Bennett Cerf, co-founded Random House and was himself an internationally famous writer and humorist. His mother, Phyllis Cerf Vaghe, is also an editor and writer. Chris' brother Jonathan is two-time winner of the World Cthello Championship.

### OTHER MUPPET SOFTWARE

The lovable Sesame Street characters appear in several other games especially for the younger set. The Muppet media inspired The Children's Television Workshop to pen games for C-64 Software. Ernie's Magic Shapes (Atari, C-64, IBM PC) features Sesame Street's Ernie in a shape and

### JOYCE HAKANSSON ASSOCIATES



Joyce Hakansson and friends at home.

Joyce Hakansson brought together a crew of 30 artists, programmers, educators, game designers and writers to create educational software for kids all working together in a magnificent Victorian style house near downtown Berkeley. The comfortable tree-lined street is often the focal point of the brainstorming, when meetings and creative confabs are held on the steps of the mansion instead of around the conference table.

Joyce was an old friend of the Muppets even before she became involved with this project. She started the software division of Children's Television Workshop and designed the Sesame Place Computer Galleries.

The Hakansson crew already has an impressive list of titles to its credit, including Seahorse Hide N Seek (C-64, Atari, C-64), Dream House (C-64, Apple, C-64), Flip McCloud (Milton Bradley, T-99, 4A), Ranch (Spinaker, Adam, Atari, C-64) and at least 15 other video games.

### THE MUPPET INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Frank Schwartz, President of Simon & Schuster's Electronic Publishing Group, wanted something special for the Muppet programs—something to position the line squarely for fun, with some learning value on the side—so he created the Muppet Institute of Technology, a make-believe university that turns every user into a college student.

The company plans seven instructive programs based on the Muppet characters, which together form the curriculum for this hypothetical university. The tuition for this college is the price of the software and kids completing the learning courses win graduation certificates.

Schwartz explained that he wanted unique products that differed from the homogenous educational games already on the market. "Realizing that the use of licensed characters hasn't been too successful in software thus far, he elaborated his feeling that the difference this time is in the pe-

sonalities of the Muppet characters. The Muppets have well-known and distinctive characteristics," he said.



"We wanted to make sure the programs were special by utilizing and reinforcing the own personalities," Schwartz explained. "We've tried to elevate each character's individuality by putting the personalities in settings where they flourish instead of making the Muppets conform to the game settings."

color matching contest. Big Bird's Special Delivery (Atari, C-64, IBM PC) uses Big Bird and Little Bird to help kids learn to compare different objects, then deliver the right packages to the proper addresses. Sesame Street Letter Go Round (Atari, C-64) features an EasyKey keyboard Overlay using three Muppet characters in a letter matching ex-

ercise starring Big Bird, Bert and the Cookie Monster. Astro-Grover stars Grover from Sesame Street in counting simple addition and subtraction drills that use the EasyKey keyboard Overlay packaged with the software. Big Bird's Funhouse (Atari, C-64) lets pre-schoolers play a computerized version of hide-and-seek with Sesame Street characters. Games are for tots 3 to 6.



## Winning Isn't Everything: What To Do After A Successful Quest

By CHARLES ARDAI

**S**o you finally did it. It was no easy task, to be sure. Gathering those first twenty treasures was simple enough, but fighting the Wizard of Frobozz nearly got you killed. And that final faceoff against the Dungeon Master was enough to test anyone's mettle. But you persevered; you hung in there through thick and thin, facing danger at every turn until, at last, you emerged victorious. You conquered the famous Zork trilogy.

And so it goes with all adventure games. Big or small, hard or easy, text or graphics, all adventures have one thing in common: when they're over, they're over. It may take weeks or months to finish such a game, and some have even been known to last for years. In fact, one of the measures of an adventure's quality is how long it can hold a player's interest. That is not to say that an adventure is good if it keeps the player puzzling over a single conundrum for days on end. On the contrary, a good adventure absorbs the player into an environment in which there's always something new to see or do, some new puzzle a ways just around the corner. Still, regardless of which category an adventure



THE ZORK TRILOGY (INFOCOM)

game falls into, once one has solved all that there is to solve, that's it. The game is over. And no matter how satisfying the ending is, most (if not all) gamers wish that there was something anything left to do with completed adventures besides relegating them to a dusty pile on the closet shelf.

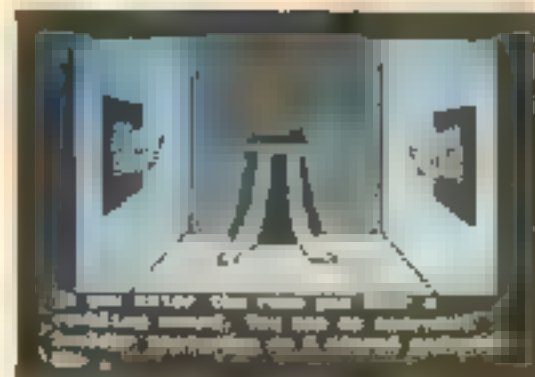
And there is.

First of all, even when an adventure is finished, there's usually a great deal left to see that the average player might have missed. In Broderbund's *Mask of the Sun*, the entire pyramid complex to the east is, for the most part, entirely incidental to the game. In fact, since it's an arduous and quite frankly dull jeep ride away, most gamers bypass this section completely.

Then too, there's the time limit which makes excessive travel inadvisable. This is unfortunate, since the eastern pyramid holds some of the game's best graphics; it's certainly worth a side trip once the game itself has been mastered.

Many adventures have similar extra sections, often for no other reason than to mislead a player into thinking that a worthless bit of information is actually crucial to the completion of the quest. For instance, Infocom's *Sorcerer* has Bozbar and a midway known to the public as Zorky Park, complete with a roller coaster, flume, and haunted house, all of which can be used by the gamer, but none of which have the least bit of bearing on the mission at hand. However, in the same game, there's a pile of bat guano hidden unobtrusively in a damp cave (as if anyone would want a pile of bat guano in the first place), without which even the best player will end up caught in a no-win situation little more than halfway through the game. Appearances can be deceiving, you see.

Still, all of the rides and attractions are fully programmed into the game.



MASK OF THE SUN (BRODERBUND)

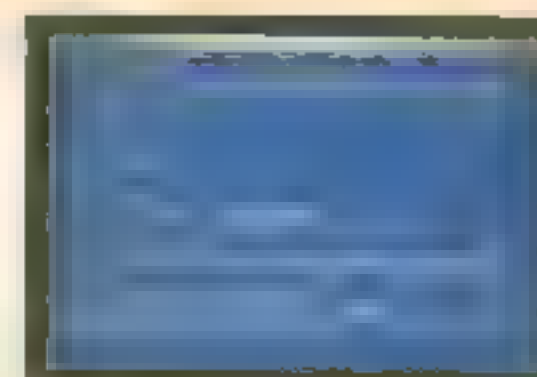
Get on a ride and be prepared to spend the next few turns reading intently as the computer describes the course of the ride in detail, from the loops and turns of roller coaster to the cold spray of the flume. Wander around the haunted house and the computer responds with chilling messages. There's even a workable slot machine which the player can gamble with, though hitting three pots of gold and beware—winning too much gold can be hazardous to your health! Although this section of the game can waste precious time when the safety of the civilized world is at stake, nonetheless, side trips are fun to play around with when time is no longer an issue.

When someone plays an adventure game for points, or to solve it, he or she has to consider the consequences of any actions to be undertaken. Once the game is over, players aren't so restricted. Go ahead, experiment. If you use up a magic potion that can only be used once, so what? There's no way to

run an adventure once it's been solved.

Long time adventurer Robert Schoenberg experimented a little with the vezza spell in *Sorcerer* and discovered something very interesting. (The vezza spell allows its caster to have a momentary glimpse of the near future.) Robert found that by casting the spell at the very end of the game, the player receives some visions of events that never occur during the course of the game. According to Infocom's Dave Anderson, these visions represent events from the not yet released third installment in the *Enchanter* trilogy.

Recently programmers have begun to make a game out of putting humor into adventures—humor that the player never sees, unless he or she does something that makes no sense in the



ENCHANTER (INFOCOM)

context of the game, or even something plainly idiotic. After the game has been solved and no harm can be done, is the perfect time to do things that are irrational. A good example of this is Sierra On-Line's *Dark Crystal*, which is full of witty one-liners and puns like the groaner that results when the gamer instructs the character Jen to cut down one of the many vines in the game. Jen: an cut no vine before its time. (Ohhhhhhh)

Searching out all the puns—a game in itself—and it lends some spice to an otherwise commonplace adventure. Other games have hidden humor, too, and it sometimes takes the form of an in-joke which only a certain group of people will appreciate. For instance, reading the tower in Infocom's *Planetfall* produces the following response:

S5: Feinstein Escape Pod #42  
DON'T PANIC

Only readers of Douglas Adams' *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*



# Adventure Games:

## Is There Life After 'Game Over'?







PLANETFALL (INFOCOM)



DEADLINE (INFOCOM)

## ADVENTURE GAMES

will find the above even vaguely funny or for that matter understand its humor at all. But since both are science fiction comedies including the joke was not really much of a gamble on the part of the programmers.

Nearly all new adventures have bits of humor hidden away somewhere just waiting to be ferreted out by some ingenious adventurer. In fact, sad comment though it may be, finding them sometimes takes more ingenuity than solving the game itself.

Each publisher deals with adventure game humor in a different fashion. Infocom, for example, does so by integrating its humor into the storylines of its games. Even its hard-edged mystery series, consisting of *Deadline* and *The Witness*, is packed with humorous responses to the player's commands to do such things as take certain drugs, pierce the hostess' silverware or follow a corpse ("Is this what they call a death wish?", asks the computer).

Infocom also tries occasionally to poke fun at itself with gags like the authors of *Enchanter* (Mark Blum and Dave Lebling) making a cameo appearance in their own game. Similarly, *Sorcerer* introduces the player to the Vezza spell, named after A. Vezza, Infocom's Chief Executive Officer and the Dorn Beast, a vicious monster seemingly named after the head of the invisibles department, Mike Dornbrook.

Of course, there are other things that a gamer can do with a finished

adventure besides searching for some times obscure jokes and puns. Those who are artistically inclined can do a text adventure justice by making it into a drawing or a model. It really does add new life to an all-text game to see its locales depicted, especially in three dimensions. Just try making a model of a favorite adventure using whatever materials are at hand; it's not as simple as it appears at first, as even the smallest of adventures cover a lot of ground.

Another aspect of this is simply try



ULTIMA II (SIERRA)

ing to make a map of an entire game. Mapping the worlds of, say, *Ultima II* (Sierra may even end up more difficult than the game itself). When playing the game to win, an adventurer would cover only as much territory as is necessary to obtain the magical equipment and the power to defeat Minax, the Enchantress. However, mapping the whole game would entail traveling across the numerous continents, not only on the Earth, but also on all of the

other planets of the solar system. And what's more, all of this travel would have to be repeated in each of five time periods, ranging from the Era of Legends to the world after a nuclear holocaust (known as the Era of the Aftermath).

No, it's not impossible. Only very nearly so. And it's an idea challenge for the master gamer that managed to defeat Minax.

In a great many adventure games like the *Wizardry* series or *Ultima II*, part of the challenge is in coordinating the actions of a group of characters on the way to a common goal. On the other hand, some games are made with one player in mind, and these challenge the player to coordinate various forms of input in order to efficiently control the actions of a single figure. Switching these around presents a lot of interesting possibilities for an adventure game that's been completed.

**The Return of Heracles** (Quality Software) puts the player in legendary Greece with an awesome task ahead. To complete the Twelve Labors of Heracles in order to reach this end, the player is allowed to enlist the aid of as many mythical heroes as possible and then lead them about to perform the various tasks. If all of the tasks are performed correctly, Zeus is pleased and the game has been solved.

Once the player has earned all of the structures of each task, completing them is not too difficult, certainly. It's not too tough with a virtual pantheon of fabied Greek heroes and demigods at the gamer's beck and call. But what if one were to play the game with but a

single character to command? Nothing else. I would spice up the game play, not to mention the fact that it would require the player to plan strategy much more carefully.

On the flip side, there are games like *Gateway to Apshai* and *Beyond Castle Wolfenstein* which require the player to use a joystick for motion and combat and keyboard controls for everything else from spell casting to lock picking. Playing the game with two players, with one manning the joystick and one the keyboard, may seem to be a logical solution to make the game simple, but it doesn't work that way. Two players controlling the same character requires the development of some new skills which wouldn't surface in regular play. Honest cooperation for starters, and of course intense trust in one's partner (after all, when a zombie is charging and one player shouts, "Ready the Confuse spell," there's no time for the other player to reply, "Why?").

Yet another enjoyable pastime is to try to find all of an adventure's possible endings. Not all adventures have more than one ending—actually most don't. But for those that do, finding all the possibilities is a worthy challenge.

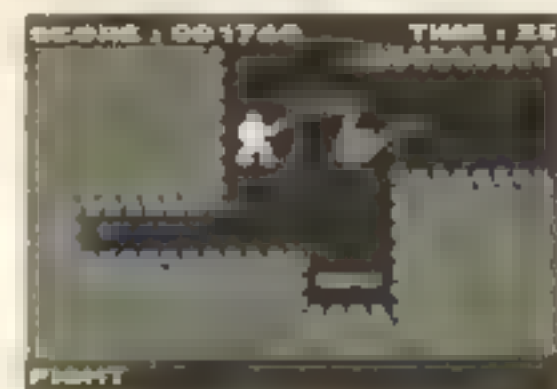
Mystery games are notorious for having multiple endings, in that sort of game the ending changes according to how much evidence the detective has procured and whether motives have been established and alibis broken. Infocom's *Deadline* has a total of ten separate endings, of which only one ends with the guilty parties locked up.

Actually, *Deadline* is not typical of all multiple ending adventures. Many have numerous endings, which are all positive. A good example is *Planetfall*, which has two equally good endings. Which is better: being stranded on an alien planet but becoming its supreme ruler and receiving an unlimited bank account, or getting rescued by the Galactic Navy, becoming a hero and having your arch-nemesis reassigned as your personal toilet attendant?

Games with many solutions can be played over and over again for the obvious reason that each replaying can have an entirely new outcome. In a similar vein are games that don't have multiple endings but have several solutions to certain problems

Sierra's *King's Quest* represents a quantum leap forward in this respect. Not only is it unique in that the player can manipulate an on-screen character, Sir Graham, through various action sequences with a joystick, but each problem that he faces has two possible solutions: a relatively obvious, low-scoring one and a less obvious, higher scoring one. For instance, when Sir Graham comes up against a troll that blocks his passage over a bridge, he has two choices. He can bribe the troll with one of his precious treasures, or he can use a carrot to entice a nearby goat to butt the troll off the bridge.

Sierra's Larry Archer says, "The first time I played I got a really low score



GATEWAY TO APSHAI (BYX)



WIZARDRY III: SIR ELM (SIERRA)



RETURN OF HERACLES (QUALITY SOFTWARE)



KING'S QUEST (SIERRA)

because I had given all my treasures away. At the end of the game I had almost nothing left. The next time I played my score nearly doubled. And by the time all of the possibilities have been exhausted, players can look forward to *King's Quest II*, which is scheduled for release in mid-1985. The only bad news is that both programs take up 128k and at present only run on the IBM PC and PCjr.

One of the more underrated things that one can do with finished adventures is try to beat them. Not try to beat them in the sense of a high number of points or a low number of moves, but beat them by outsmarting

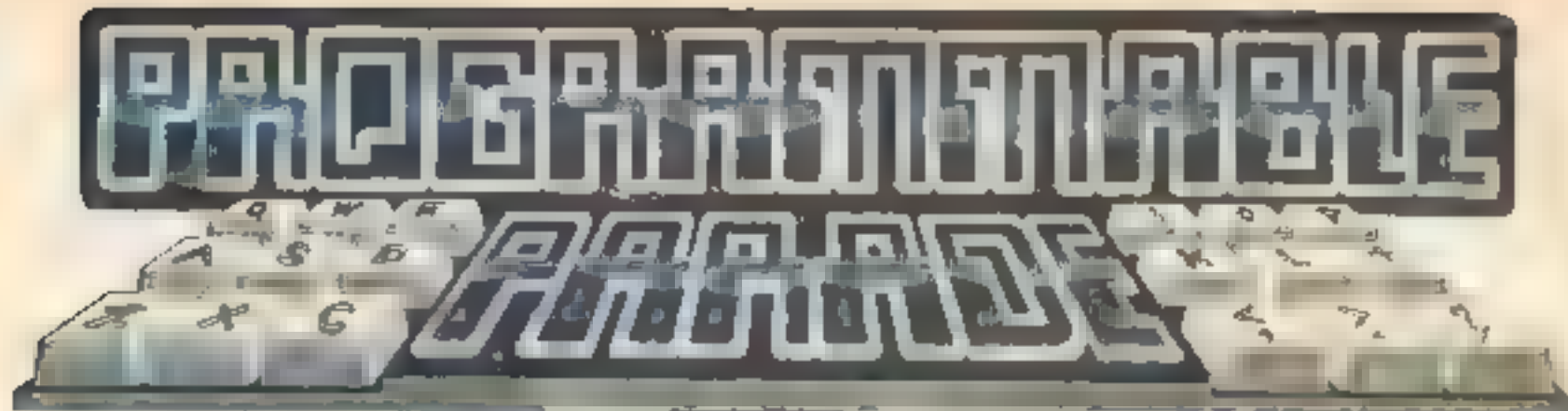
the program, by using bugs and odd quirks in the program to do things that the programmer hadn't intended.

One such circumstance occurs in *Zork III* in which the player can summon the Dungeon Master simply by typing "Dungeon Master, come here." However, by some fault of the program, the player can also drag the Dungeon Master through the whole game by typing "Dungeon Master, follow me." In this manner, the Dungeon Master can be led anywhere, including the Teleportation Chamber, where if the player plays his cards right, the Dungeon Master can end up stuck in the worlds of *Zork I* or *Enchanter*.

One of the common compliments

heaped on adventure games is that they encourage use of the imagination, and this is doubly true when after the games have been solved, one gets a chance to explore all of the possibilities of the adventure realm. True, even this won't last forever, but how many other forms of computer entertainment can hold your interest for so long? So take heart. Completed adventures don't have to become hand-me-downs or even worse, something to be stuck under the wiggly leg of a table. The game may be over, but to paraphrase Captain Kirk and company, the computer adventure is just beginning. G





## On Your Marks, Get Set. . .Go For Your Joysticks!

### DECATHLON

Activision ColecoVision Cartridge

Cramming ten different Olympic sporting events into a regular ColecoVision cartridge is the work of wizards, particularly when the quality of *Decathlon* is considered.

*Decathlon* sports engrossing, extremely life-like video renditions of the 100-meter dash, the long jump, 400-meter race, the shot put event, and the 110-meter hurdles. The 1500-meter footrace, javelin and discus throws, pole vault, and the high jump round out the classic itinerary.

For one or two Olympians, this cart offers two play options: game or practice. Once your reflexes and timing are honed by innumerable trials (practice does make perfect here), the full game mode enters into successive matches until the entire ten events are completed. (In the practice mode, gamers can select and repeat as needed any events they need improvement in.)

The graphics are detailed and realistically colored. With two figures competing on an earthen track that runs horizontally before a grandstand full of faceless people, *Decathlon* puts players in the mood. The spirit of friendly competition really grips you whether you're hurrying the javelin, making a long jump, or going for the gold in the 1500 meters.

Players normally have three attempts at non-race events; the best score being posted to their totals. Scratches and missed attempts help the game closely parallel life. Elapsed time and the score are displayed for each race; distance covered or height attained and a corresponding score are posted for the balance of the events.

Even if one of the players is outclassed in a heat, the 400 meters for example, both figures remain on

screen. The distance markers and the running clock show the progress of each. It's a nice touch which adds greatly to the playability.

Though the action is pretty limber and the visuals attractive, the sound effects are somewhat limited. Except for a pregame theme, the only audio enhancements are the sounds of pounding footsteps and the heavy thud of landing objects (shot put, javelin, etc.).

There is one bone of contention with this otherwise excellent sports simulation: the method of movement. To activate a figure, video locks must toggle the joystick left to right and vice versa at a furious, hand-numbing, joystick-wanking pace. A little circular movement helps with slightly less effort. If anything could

be worse than repeatedly hitting the fire button for auto fire or to flap an animal's wings (as in *Joust*), this is it.

Even so, *Decathlon* has got what it takes. The big *D* is, without question, the best videogame multi-sport simulation on the market.

(Ted Saramone)

### H.E.R.O.

Activision ColecoVision Cartridge

Keeping true to form in one respect yet departing noticeably in another, Activision has released the ColecoVision version of *H.E.R.O.*, the action yarn in which home arcaders guide a flightpack propelled figure through danger-filled mazes to rescue stranded miners.

Activision usually produces transitions which play and look much like

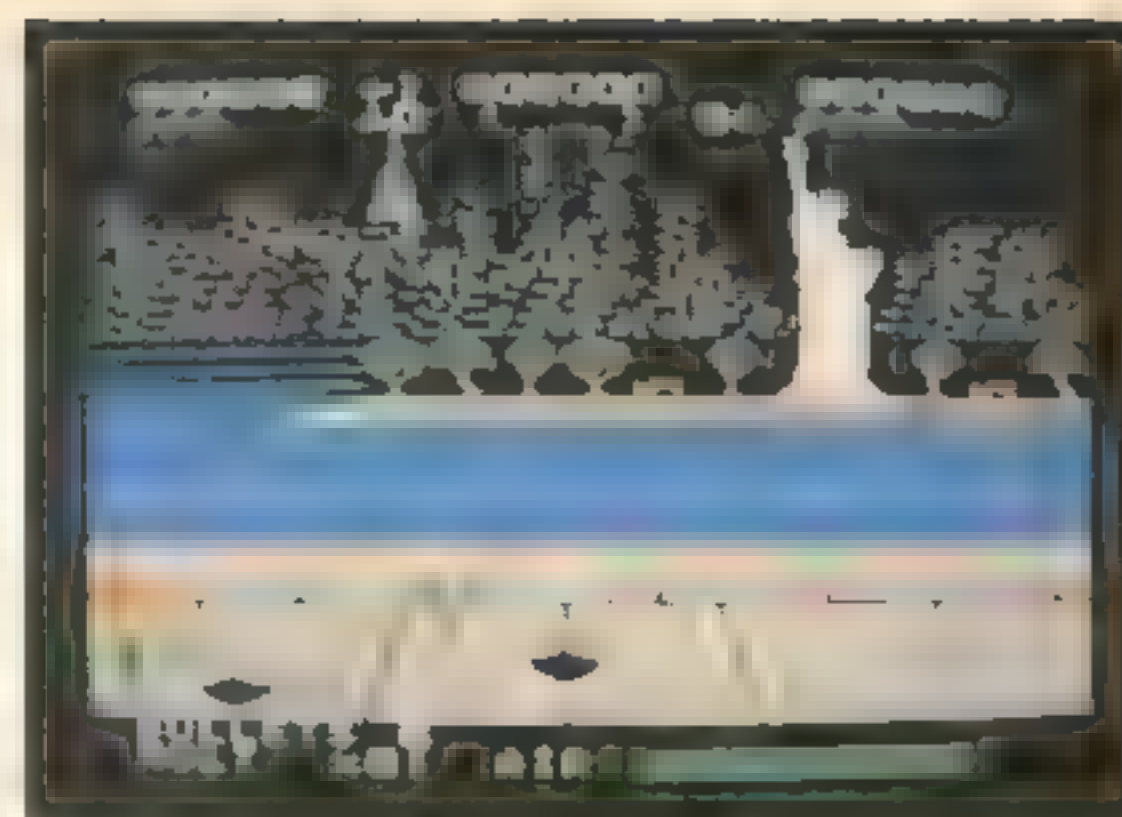
the original release as possible, thus providing gamers with a continuity which helps them choose what game they should spend their hard-earned money on. From past experience or reviews, let's hope you know Activision doesn't mess with success, although they may tweak it a bit to take advantage of some special features found in the different hardware.

*H.E.R.O.*, thank goodness, is a welcome exception to that conservative approach. Instead of altering game play (as they did by adding a two-player option to the *5210 Kaboom*), Activision has wisely used the superior graphics capabilities of the CV unit to provide a breathtaking underground panorama.

The player, equipped with several sticks of dynamite (per level or life), about five game lives, the swing wing flightpack, and a good supply of fuel. Making your way to the miners is no easy task either; they don't do anything to keep you on themselves for that matter.

Numerous deadly creatures fly hang around or patrol about this underground domain. A varied level feature blacked-out areas, watch what you touch, lava walls, and unseen passages. Long-necked beasts similar to the asteroid monster in *Star Wars* (but in cameo appearances for homesick space travelers, no doubt).

Joystick controls, as mentioned, has a baby; you know what the animation is like. Besides excelling in the



SEWER SAM (INTERPHASE)

fantastic colors and richness of detail departments, *H.E.R.O.* also gets high grades for its addictive play mechanic. Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee.

There are many levels of play and most even the hardest are directly accessible through keypad input, though the wise compugamer will start at the beginner's level. It's much safer that way.

Blasting or avoiding monsters and generally flying about consumes precious fuel. Watch the on-screen bar graph fuel gauge if you don't believe it. The only way to tank up is to rescue

a stranded toiler of the inner earth. Naturally this becomes more difficult to accomplish with each successive level, many because the miners are located on deeper and deeper levels. The hazards become numerous; the dark areas proliferate, and blocked passages occur more frequently. Fast to top off though, and it's curtains for our *H.E.R.O.*

Congrats Activision! *H.E.R.O.* is a real champion.

(Ted Saramone)

### SEWER SAM

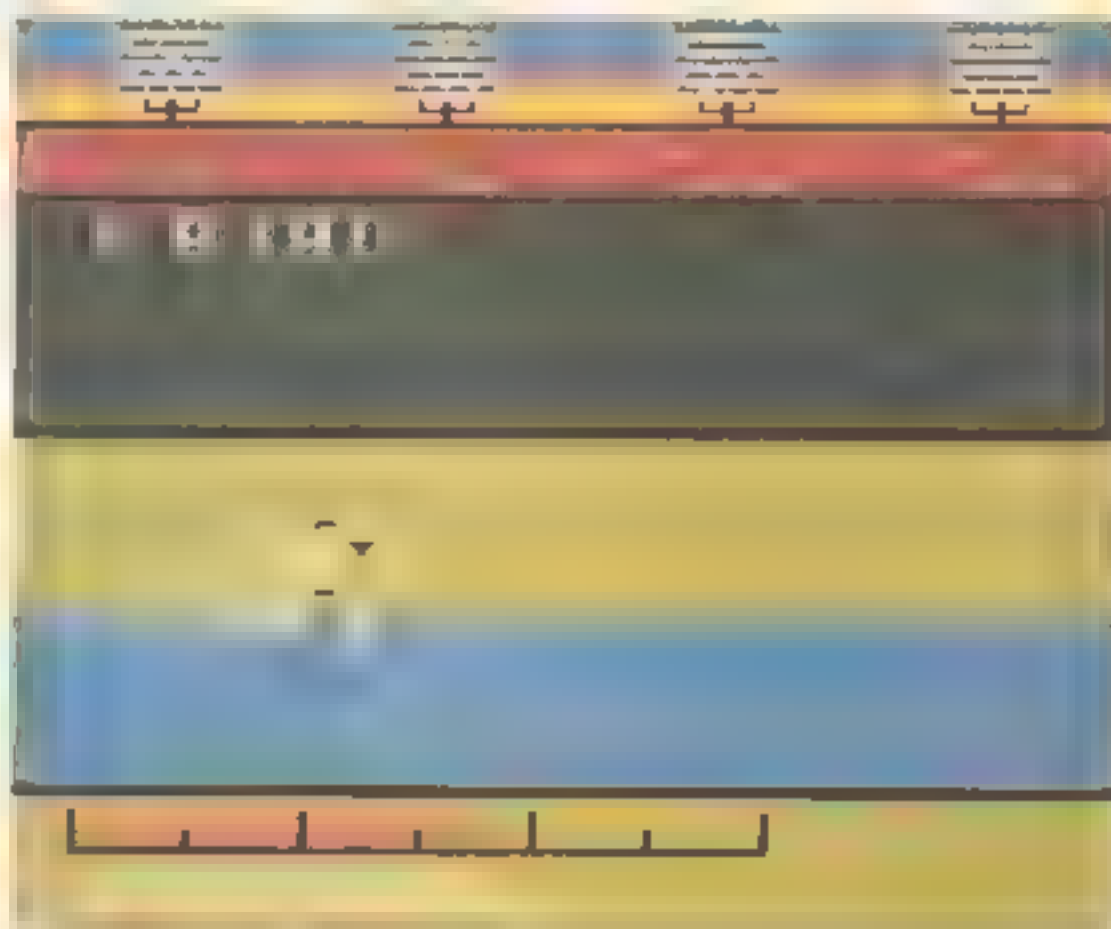
Interphase ColecoVision Cartridge

What's the fuss all about? Why ColecoVision games that speak of course. Even more unbelievable is the fact that they talk without additional hardware. That's right, no need to shell out big bucks for yet another expansion module.

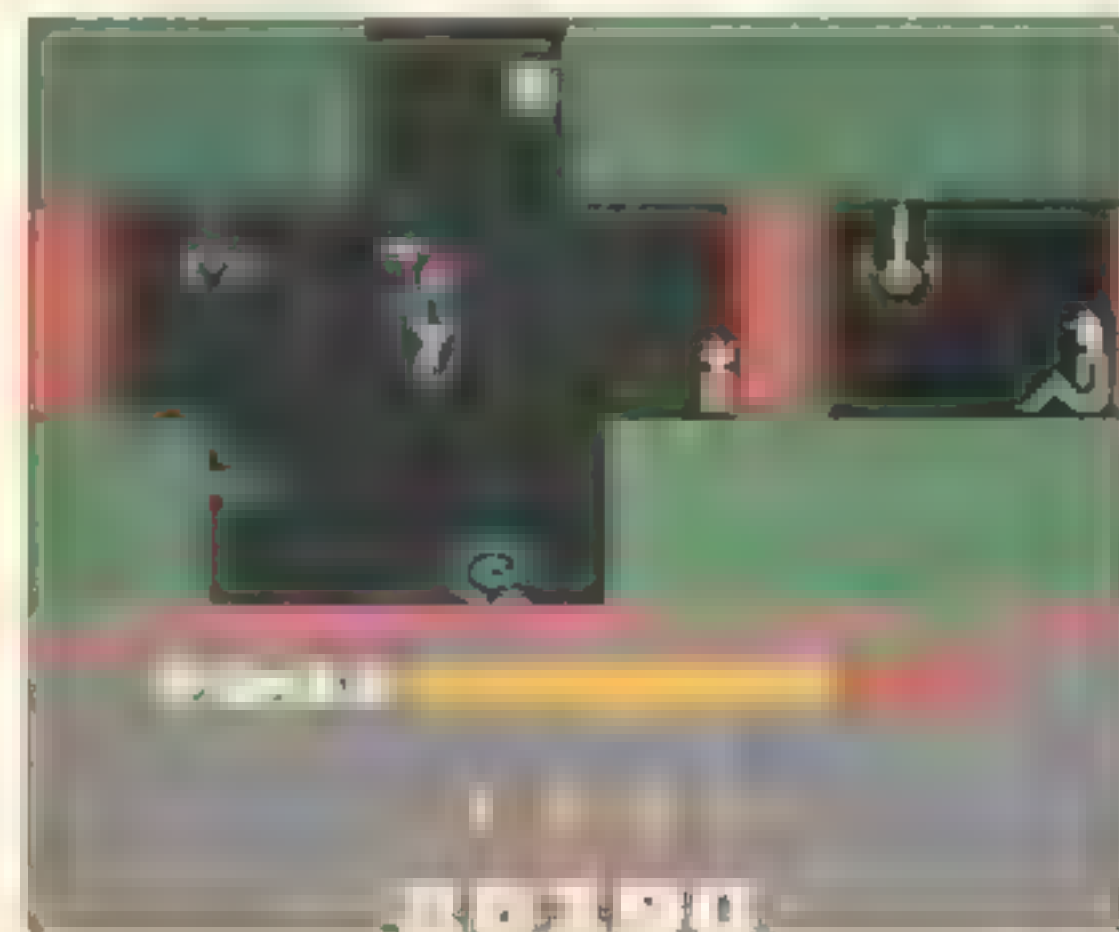
*Sewer Sam*, one of Interphase's takes for the original third-wave programmable, brings new gaming excitement to dedicated videogame machines. When Sam's up to his hip boots in trouble scouring New York's sewer system for hostile missile-launching submarines, he'll gasp in despair. Oh, no, don't suddenly

Ouch! or meet a demise most horrible. You have to play the game to hear the scream; mere words cannot do it justice.

Packing a six-shooter with extra ammo, our hero prowls various underground passages until he discovers the three harboring CBM-frog nuclear subs. To ensure the safety of the free world, he must destroy them with his

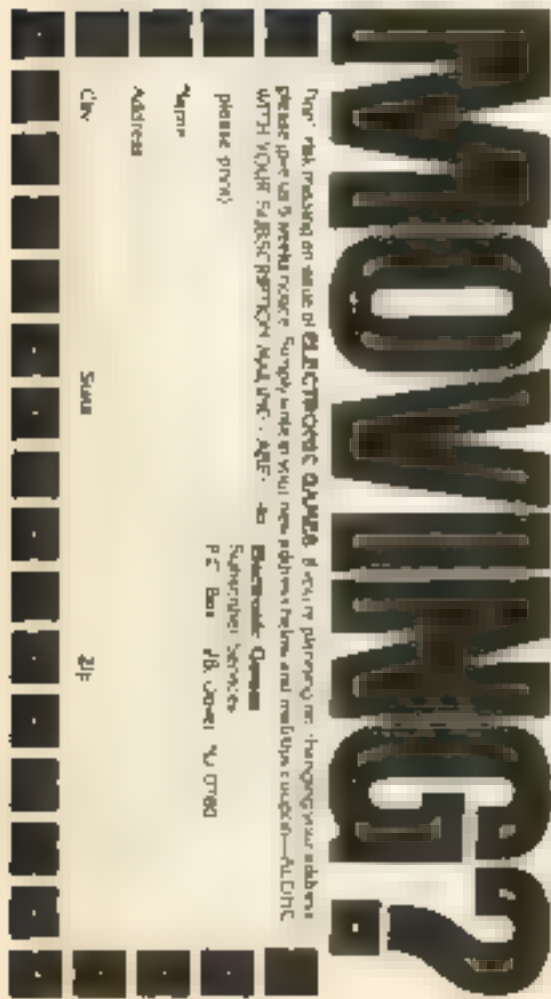


DECATHLON (ACTIVISION)



H.E.R.O. (ACTIVISION)





## PROGRAMMABLE PARADE

pistol) a trio of missiles from each sub before they launch through a crater hole in the roof of the tunnels. One thing's certain: Dirty Harry would probably like to get his hands on Sam's heater.

Every step of the way deadly rats, bats, creatures of the avian persuasion, crocodiles, and sharks menace Sam. When spiders spin paralyzing webs, the other baddies zero in on you. A player's only defenses are a quick tango and his trusty sidearm.

Besides the speech, Sewer Sam boasts excellently simulated three-dimensional visuals. Passageways seem to narrow to a point somewhere in the distance, widening with every advancing footfall. The animation is very smooth and the coloring is very pleasing to the eye. The audio enhancements are top drawer too.

Sewer Sam can entertain one or two cadets at a time, though the duel is structured so players take turns maneuvering the rotation engineer. Joystick response is quick and accurate, just as it must be in such an action-oriented game.

Besides offering a lot of challenge and a good dose of staying power, Sewer Sam comes with a sharp-looking poster. As with every interphase title so far, Sewer Sam is a first-rate, highly entertaining bit of electronic diversion. A must have for Coierovisionaries.

(Ted Salamone)

### SAMMY LIGHTFOOT

SIERRA Coierovision

Sammy Lightfoot's plot is entirely unique, even if its climbing and jumping play mechanic isn't. The player, in the bit role of a clowning-for-a-circus In Order to get the job, Sammy has to survive three screens of death-defying tasks, ranging from a simple leap over a rolling ball to an almost impossible swing from one trapeze to another over a pit of fire.

The game is filled with odd gadgets that are either meant to impede Sammy's progress or help him along. The are trampolines scattered around the first screen, for instance, which bounce the player from one level to another. Other elements in the game are not so readily identifiable like the set of rectangular boxes floating around screen two. These, along with a strange set of descending rods on



SAMMY LIGHTFOOT (SIERRA)

screen three detract from the overall feel of the game a bit, but not terribly much. They have their purposes in the game, and that's what matters.

Each screen presents the player with an entirely new series of challenges, and since very few of them are explained in the rules, the player will have to spend some time getting used to them. This is not bad, though, it makes the game a lot more interesting than it would otherwise have been. In addition, there are four separate skill levels for each screen. Each skill level adds a new element to the gameplay of the screen; the game doesn't just get faster—it changes. For example, on the second level of the second screen, the pattern of the floating blocks changes completely. And since the player has the option of starting at any skill level, the game can be somewhat different each time it's played.

Sammy Lightfoot's graphics are good, but nothing spectacular, especially for the Coierovision. The screen elements are pretty simple, made up mostly of straight lines and rectangles. Sammy himself is quite a character, with his little hat and his perpetually slouch, and the circus foreman, the Cool Pumpkin, a small orange pumpkin wearing shades, is nicely drawn. Sadly, however, sound effects are a most nonexistent; after a short musical burst before each screen, the sound might as well be turned off.

Sammy Lightfoot is simply fun, with its emphasis on action rather than strategy and planning. It does require imagination, though.

Too many new games seem to have forgotten how to have fun. Sammy Lightfoot remembers.

(Charles Arda)

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## PARTY QUIZ

### Best kept secret of the season

### Computer gamers play PQ for hours

What's a PQ, you ask? See, I told you it was the best kept secret. PQ stands for *Party Quiz*, a computer trivia game from Suncom, Inc.

PQ is a social trivia game that allows up to four players to participate simultaneously. Each player uses a controller to respond directly to the trivia questions on the screen.

Recently a couple of friends, Chuck and Joan, stopped over to visit. I had just received my review copy of PQ that afternoon and decided to "hook up" the program and see just how social this game really was. I couldn't have picked a better couple to participate in an "aid test." Chuck hates board-type trivia games, and Joan absolutely loathes computers, although she likes trivia questions.

Setting up the game was easy. Each set comes with 2700 "general" questions. Suncom will be offering additional question disks covering specific categories including Sports, Entertainment, a Bible Edition, and General Edition 2 which expands your inventory of general questions. I received the Commodore Amiga version, although *Party Quiz* is also available for the Apple and will be available soon for the IBM PC.

After offering my guests beverages and excusing myself to fetch their drinks, I slipped into my study and loaded the game. Returning I casually asked, "Which country was the first to issue postage stamps and what was the year?" Joan quickly answered, "Great Britain in 1840; now ask me a hard one." My man was working, we were on the subject of trivia, I mentioned that I had just received PQ that day, and I was wondering if they'd like to try answering some of the questions asked by the computer. We gravitated into my study.

I handed controllers to Joan and Chuck. My wife Liz and I watched the third and fourth, I explained that the computer would display a question

ADVERTISEMENT



PQ is a social computer entertainment.

along with four possible answers which were numbered 1-4. The rules were simple: select the right answer and press the corresponding button on the controller. Joan mumbled something about being a klutz, but she took the controller anyway, even if it was suspiciously.

After Joan answered the first two questions correctly, I suspected that I was being a bit over the top. Joan, who had no computer, was doing very well. She missed on the third question, but Chuck answered correctly. Liz answered the next few questions correctly, and then finally, I got one right. It's not every day you get a look like a dummy in front of my friends.

We spent hours playing *Party Quiz* and it had a great time playing. The questions covered a myriad of topics, from the color of the one Ranger's pants to whether the first footprint on the moon was from a right or left foot. It had been a special evening, indeed. It's not often that I get the chance to use non-computing people for playing a new product, and even rarer when I can have my friends actively participate in a computer-based game. We're even considering buying a PQ Party one of these weekends.

As they were departing for home, Joan mentioned that it was about time she bought a computer for her son to do his homework on. "What's she kidding?" I said. "I know she's going to buy one to play *Party Quiz* on."

As a new friend of the beginning of a piece, PQ is probably the best kept secret of the Christmas season, at least for now. If you know someone who has a home computer, and/or is a trivia buff, why not pick up a copy of *Party Quiz*? It makes a perfect Christmas gift. But with a better gift, while you wait, get one. You know how hard it is to keep things a secret at this time of year.

PQ is available at your favorite local computer retailer. To locate the dealer nearest you, call toll free 1-800-323-8341, or in Illinois 1-312-458-8000.

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## Where Have All The Lasers Gone? Can This Be The End Of The Road For 'The Saviour Of The Arcades'?

Not much more than a year ago people were calling laser games the saviours of the arcade. These were the machines that would restore the flagging popularity of videogames. Gamers would pack the arcades to play them, promised the laser game makers. And while they were waiting their turns, these people would also plunk a few quarters into the more conventional non-laser videogames, a double bonus for arcade owners. Eventually it was predicted laser games would do to conventional games what

By DAN PERSONS

still be a few games with computer-generated graphics stuck in the corner of an arcade, but the wave of the future was the laser, and it was destined to wash away all that preceded it.

To say that the predictions have not come true is an understatement. Laser machines that once commanded a hefty price of three and four thousand dollars are now being sold off at a thousand dollars apiece, so eager are distributors to clear out the inventory

it's not uncommon to enter an arcade nowadays and see *Space Ace* and *Firefox* standing idle, their attract modes repeating endlessly to no one in particular. Where are the players? They're crowding around such games as *TX-1* and *Punch-Out*, machines that feature high-res computer-generated graphics. While arcades were once willing to shell out fifty cents to walk in Dirk the Daring's boots, operators now have to cut prices down to the standard two bits to encourage play.

What happened? How can a system that held so much promise suddenly find itself on the scrap heap? There's no pat answer to these questions. But from what one can gather by looking at the short history of laser games, it seems almost as if the entire medium was preordained to fail.

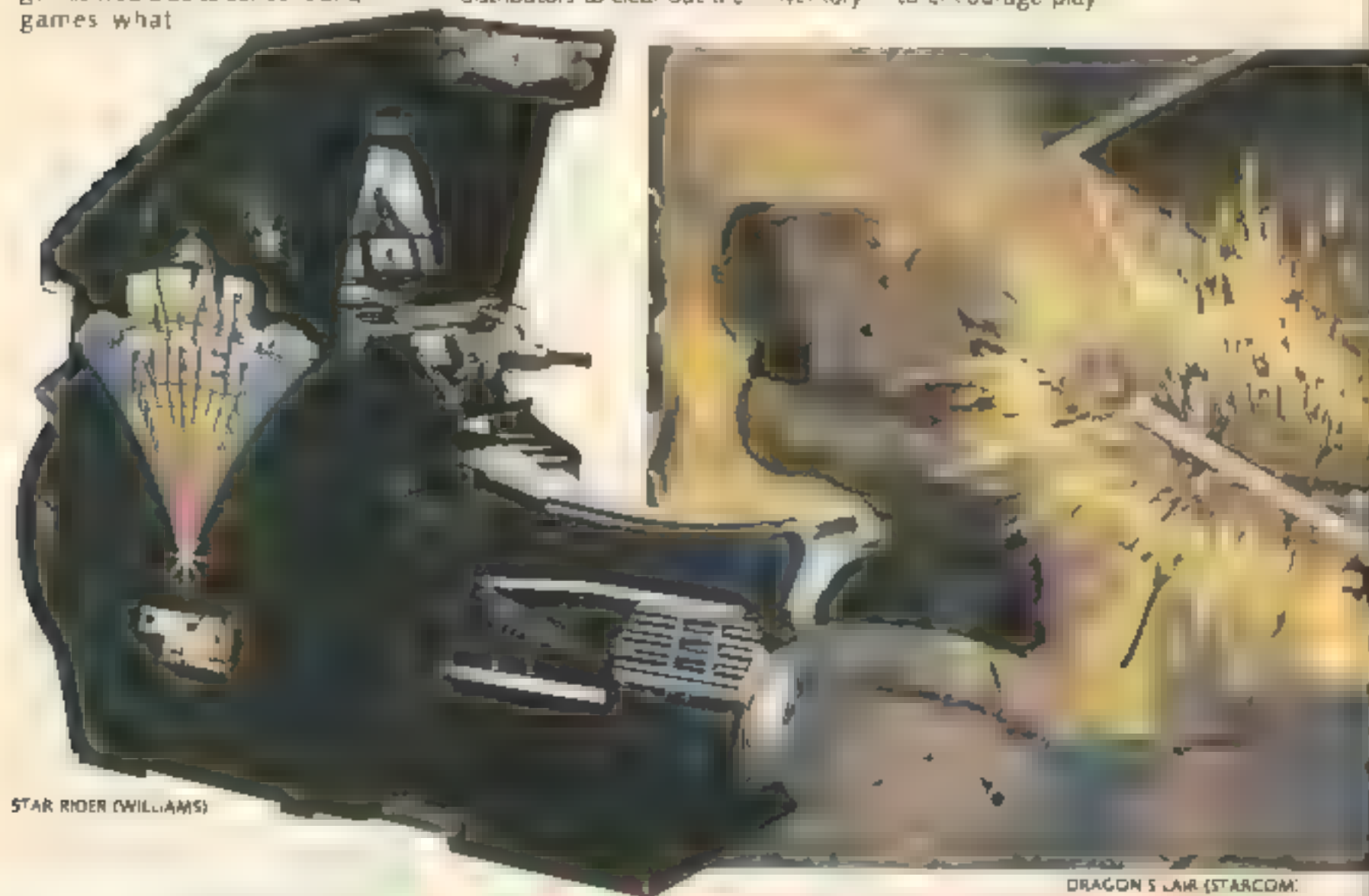
In the beginning there was, of course, *Dragon's Lair*. Combining the game development skills of RDI Video Systems, the animation talent of Don Bluth Studios, and the manufacturing know-how of Cinematronics, *Dragon's Lair* appeared in the arcades in the summer of 1983. No since *Space Invaders* hit these shores was there such excitement about a single game. It was featured on every TV program from *Entertainment Tonight* to *The New Tech Times*. Operators had to install monitors above the game

cabinets to handle the swell of spectators that the machine inevitably drew. Licensing deals followed, with the image of Dirk the Daring slated to appear on everything from a Saturday morning cartoon show to lunch boxes and T-shirts. And naturally the quarters kept coming in enough not only to ensure *Dragon's Lair* a place among the videogame classics, but also to guarantee that the game's follow-up, *Space Ace*, would be a big hit.

So a happy ending. Especially you would think for Starcom, formerly Cinematronics, a company which was deep in Chapter E even proceedings before the advent of *Dragon's Lair*. We had not quite a happy ending, actually. According to Starcom president Jim Pierce, the company is only now putting itself out of Chapter E. Even no thanks to the *Dragon's*

*Lair* or *Space Ace*. According to Mr. Pierce, Cinematronics didn't make a lot of money on *Dragon's Lair*. In fact, if you combined *Dragon's Lair* and *Space Ace* together, we may have lost a good bit of money.

Nor did *Dragon's Lair* prove to be the miracle that the arcade owners had played for. Sure, the machines brought in the players, but only when they were working, and that was it. Often it didn't take arcade operators long to discover that the disk player used in the machines just wasn't up to the rigors of the arcade environment. Mr. Pierce readily admits to the problem. "To be honest, we weren't prepared for the volume of failures. We had been warned that this was the absolute best disk player in the world; it was Pioneer's and it was made in Japan. It cost \$2499. It was go-



STAR RIDER (WILLIAMS)



DRAGON'S LAIR (STARCOM)



SPACE ACE (STARCOM)

# LASER'S

# LAST STAND





By THE GAME DOCTOR

## Questions, Queries And Quizzers For The Silicon Sawbones

With the bulk of EC's readers at least preparing to make the Great Leap Forward to a home microcomputer, the questions are flying. So let's dispense with the usual banter and get right down to business.

**Q:** When I go shopping for computer games for my C-64, I notice that most of the really good games are on disk. Will companies such as Intocom start producing their games on tape format as well as disk?

(Rusty Howell, Birmingham, AL)

**A:** Tape is rapidly becoming an obsolete format for the storage of programs. Not only is this medium slow and unreliable, but many of today's highly sophisticated software entertainments require data to be continuously loaded throughout the playing of the game—a process totally impractical on tape.

Moreover, as the price of disk drives falls, most users are opting for the speed and convenience these peripherals provide. However, since disk drives do contain a large inventory of moving machine parts, their cost has not plummeted the way prices have on, for example, computers themselves, where the economics of silicon (increasing memory, decreasing prices) largely dictate the price point.

Keep in mind as well that just because you own, say, a C-64 or Atari 800XL, you are not limited to disk drives produced by those companies. Outfits such as Percom and Rana, among others, offer compatible drives at a wide range of prices.

**Q:** Is Coleco still coming out with its laserdisc module? I've been calling Coleco and they insist they don't have any information.

(Paul Pereira, Tempe, AZ)

**A:** To our knowledge, Coleco has scrubbed the laserdisc idea.

**Q:** I love the laserdisc game Dragon's Lair. I'm about to buy an Apple IIe and have been wondering if and if so, when, there will be a laserdisc player available for the Apples that will enable them to play such games.

(Chris Cabie, Jacksonville, FL)

**A:** Apple has no current plans to produce a laserdisc peripheral. The only compelling reason for adding videodisc peripherals is for storage of visual images in massive quantity. But

as computer memory swells, this service seems less and less likely.

**Q:** I own a TI 99/4a and do some minor programming. I have some game ideas that I would like to program but I don't have the correct programming knowledge. Can you tell me where I might possibly earn these skills?

(Brian Ladley, Ft. St. Lucie, FL)

**A:** Many colleges and universities are now offering computer science courses, so for starters, look into the available programs at nearby schools. There's a world of difference, as you might imagine, between doing some minor programming on a small TI computer and actual professional design work. For starters,

you'd better learn machine or assembly language. Also, and this is something an astonishing number of would-be and even professional software authors fail to do—check out what the rest of the industry is doing. Keep abreast of the latest innovations by looking into each and every piece of major software as it's released. Study the work done by the top people in the field and try to figure out how they did it. But never, ever, be bound by what exists today. Too many designers are so obsessed by what they believe the hardware can't do that they never explore the possibilities of overcoming these limitations.

There are a so score of books available, many of them doing an excellent job of instructing computer programmers on the system of their choice. Then, once you're ready to try and sell, pick up one of the software authors' guides which list the various companies around the country, the type of programs they're interested in buying, and the systems they publish for.

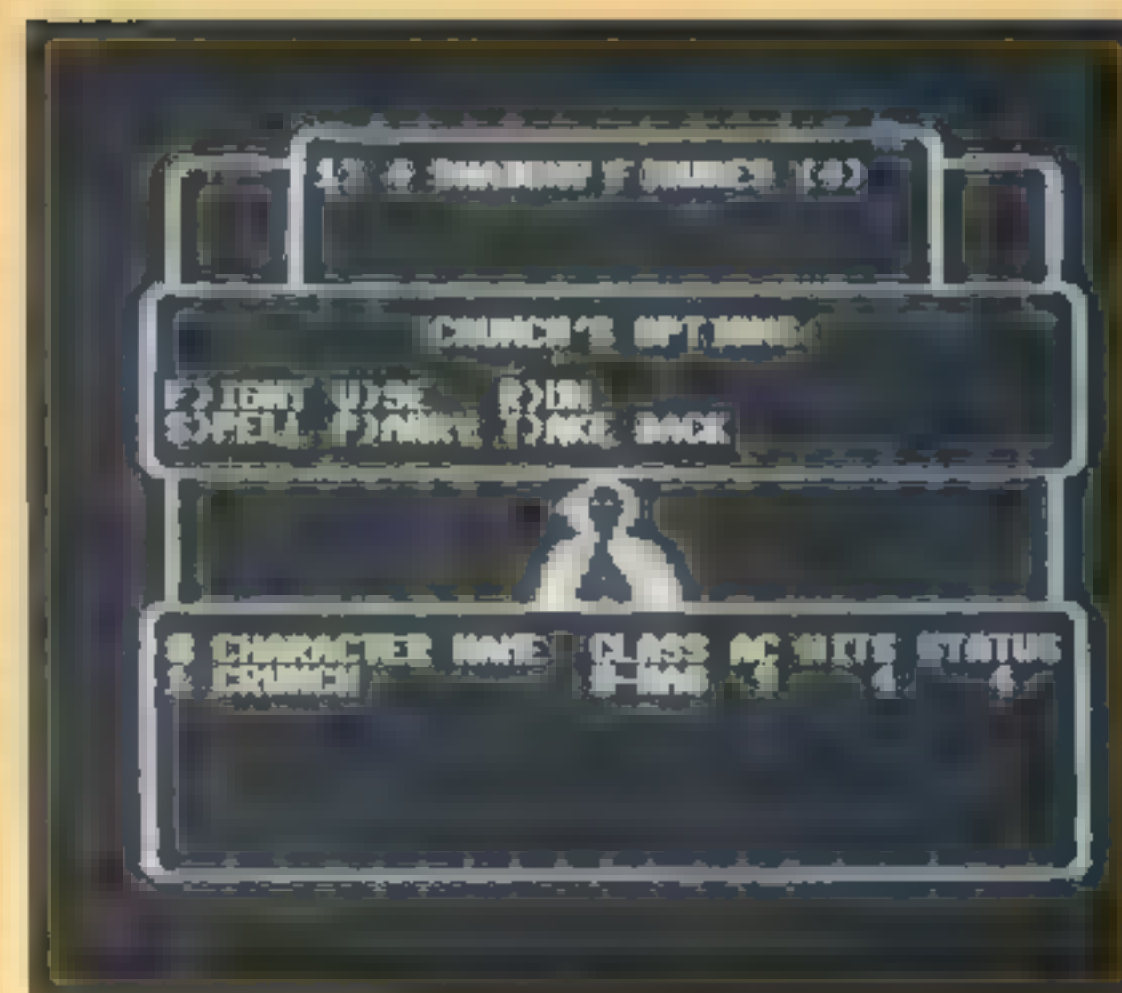
Finally, Brian, let me wish you luck. This is a very tough business and one that requires lots of hard work and genuine dedication.

**Q:** I own an Atari 2600 and in most of the games the graphics look like they're going to come up with an adapter to the Atari 2600 play ColecoVision or Atari 5200 software—or at least with the games on the 2600 get better?

(Michael Crenier, Lake Worth, FL)

**A:** If ColecoVision or Atari 5200 games are what you're interested in, Michael, I'd suggest you pick up one of those system and a 1600 adapter. You're still interested in any of your VCS games? The only way a 2600 could play 5200 games, after all, would be to attach a 5200 adaptor and knock out the VCS.

Remember, that the 1600 is over six years old, a game playing microprocessor originally intended to use 2K cartridges consisting largely of Pong variants. The graphics may seem substandard in the light of today's 128K home computers, but on its own terms, the VCS is probably the single most successful electronic game playing machine ever built. So what if it's over the hill and nobody's making software for it any more? Nothing lasts forever, and I'm certain that most 2600 owners have long ago gotten their money's worth out of that machine.



WIZARDRY III (SIR TECH)

**Q:** I would like to know if Sir Tech plans a version of Wizardry for the C-64.

(Vince DeMarli, Allen Park, MI)

**A:** Alas, according to Andy Greenberg, the classic game's co-designer, the Commodore 64 is unable to handle all the disk activity required by the software. Atari and Commodore owners may never see Wizardry on their home monitors.

**Q:** Hey Doc, I recently purchased Ultima III: Exodus and I've got a few questions. On the front box, in the

opened?

Also, where can you find keys to open doors?

(Mike Eisenstein, Flushing, NY)

**A:** When a game mentions that it offers Mockingboard sound, it refers to an Apple computer peripheral capable of producing a variety of voices and musical sounds. Just get yourself a Mockingboard and your chips will be alive with the sound of music.

As to those keys, the Ultimate Ultimaniac Features Editor Tracie Forman advises you to visit the thieves dens.

Before checking out, let me address questions by several troubled Atari owners with an entire spectrum of difficulties, most of them centering around the recent sale of Atari home division by Warner Communications. If you can't get computers fixed, or factory modifications promised for older 5200s, just keep trying. Atari's currently in a state of near total confusion—no one seems able to tell exactly what's going on right now.

EC will continue to monitor the events in Sunnyvale as closely as possible and by next issue, hope to have some news regarding the new ownership's responsibilities in light of the old ownership's promises.

Until then, keep your chips up and keep those letters coming in.



DRAGON'S LAIR (STARCOM)

lower righthand corner, there was a sticker that read: Apple Version Mockingboard music enhanced. What does this mean? In the October '84 issue of EC, you said there was different theme music for towns. I have an Apple II+ and I don't seem to be hearing any music at all. What hap-



# LIBERTY INSERT COIN HERE

By BILL KUNKEL

## I, ROBOT

Atari

**I, Robot**, the latest wonder by Atari's coin-op division, is the most beautiful arcade game this planet has ever seen. What were hailed as state-of-the-art special effects less than two years ago



I, ROBOT (ATARI)

in the Disney film "Tron" have now been seamlessly integrated into a real arcade game! Based on the popular SF novel by Isaac Asimov, *I, Robot* presents a free-form, three-dimensional universe of the most delicate, subtle shadings and the kinetic realism borders on sorcery.

So why do I have feeling in my gut that this game is doomed?

Because *I, Robot*, for all its virtues, has two problems. For one thing, it's not immediately comprehensible. It looks abstract, and because it doesn't fall into any immediately recognizable pigeonhole, it may actually intimidate players.

Its second—and far more serious—difficulty is ironic. Because for all its high-tech, geometric graphics, the game is actually a fairly simple shoot-out. So even the more sophisticated arcaders, who would at least confer

## I, Coin-Op

cult status on a game that looked and played equally hot, are likely to become bored with *I, Robot* long before the graphic delights wane.

*I, Robot* actually consists of two games—or, rather, a "game" and an "ungame," to use Atari's terminology. The "ungame" is an extraordinary graphics program and quite a good idea—just so long as the player knows he is choosing a drawing program, something the documentation leaves a trifle cloudy.

The actual contest casts the player as a robot standing in a 3-D landscape, straddled by a pair of triangular-


shaped boundaries on the left and right borders of a platform. The robot must immediately pass over all red areas on the platform, while occasionally zipping to the triangle's peak and blasting away at the bird-droids that jet by overhead. When all the red



I, ROBOT (ATARI)

terrain has been claimed, the robot must leap over the void into a nearby platform holding a cube inscribed with a massive eye. When the eye is red, the robot cannot jump, but when clear, the leap completes the round and leads into the second scenario: a jaunt through space at warp speed, blasting away at geometric ballistics.

There are also transporters which enable the player to beam up into yet another wildly configured platform. Hitting the start button alters the angle, and the game itself periodically swoops in on a breathtaking zoom angle right in the middle of a shoot-out between robot and birdbot.

Make no mistake, *I, Robot* is a marvel, a game that must be experienced. If nothing else, you'll be able to say you saw the very latest in computer supergraphics. If only you could say you'd played a great game, too. 



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# The Twelve Days Of Gamesmas

On the first day of Christmas,  
some gamers gave to me

A lifetime sub to E.G!

On the second day of Christmas,  
some gamers gave to me

Two stand-alones

And a lifetime sub to E.G!

On the third day of Christmas,  
some gamers gave to me

Three disk files

Two stand-alones

And a lifetime sub to E.G!

On the fourth day of Christmas,  
some gamers gave to me

Four monitors

Three disk files

Two stand-alones

And a lifetime sub to E.G!

On the fifth day of Christmas,  
some gamers gave to me

Five gourmet sticks

Four monitors

Three disk files

Two stand-alones

And a lifetime sub to E.G!

On the sixth day of Christmas,  
some gamers gave to me

Six games a-buzzing

Five gourmet sticks

Four monitors

Three disk files

Two stand-alones

And a lifetime sub to E.G!

On the seventh day of Christmas,  
some gamers gave to me

Seven golden cities

Six games a-buzzing

Five gourmet sticks

Four monitors

Three disk files

Two stand-alones

And a lifetime sub to E.G!

On the eighth day of Christmas,  
some gamers gave to me

Eight Jacks attacking

Seven golden cities

Six games a-buzzing

Five gourmet sticks

Four monitors

Three disk files

Two stand-alones

And a lifetime sub to E.G!

On the ninth day of Christmas,  
some gamers gave to me

Nine runners looting

Eight Jacks attacking

Seven golden cities

Six games a-buzzing

Five gourmet sticks

Four monitors

Three disk files

Two stand-alones

And a lifetime sub to E.G!

On the tenth day of Christmas,  
some gamers gave to me

Ten text adventures

Nine runners looting

Eight Jacks attacking

Seven golden cities

Six games a-buzzing

Five gourmet sticks

Four monitors

Three disk files

Two stand-alones

And a lifetime sub to E.G!

On the eleventh day of Christmas,  
some gamers gave to me

Eleven Froggers hopping

Ten text adventures

Nine runners looting

Eight Jacks attacking

Seven golden cities

Six games a-buzzing

Five gourmet sticks

Four monitors

Three disk files

Two stand-alones

And a lifetime sub to E.G!

On the twelfth day of Christmas,  
some gamers gave to me

Twelve Kings a-Questing

Eleven Froggers hopping

Ten text adventures

Nine runners looting

Eight Jacks attacking

Seven golden cities

Six games a-buzzing

Five gourmet sticks

Four monitors

Three disk files

Two stand-alones

And a lifetime sub to E.G!

—By Arnie Katz



Season's Greetings from The Staff  
of Electronic Games



Calligraphy by Christos Mirtsopoulos



# Coming Attractions

## INSIDE COMMODORE'S TWO NEW COMPUTERS

The folks who gave the gaming world the VIC-20 and the C-64 have a couple of new systems, the Plus/4 and the 16. What impact will these machines have on the world of computer entertainment software? Our top technic provides thorough analysis of both machines and evaluates their suitability for recreational and other uses.

## GAMING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

With the British Software Invasion in full gear, electronic gaming in the U.K. is beginning to exert a real effect on the American hobby. Yet little has been known, until now, about the computer software scene on opposite side of the road? Find out in our next issue!

## INSTANT PICASSO!

You, too, can learn to draw — with your computer! This in-depth study spotlights the best graphics software for microcomputer systems, including user-

friendly programs which let even fumble-fingered klutz's produce works of art on screen.

## CAMPS FOR COMPUTERISTS

It's never too early for parents to investigate summer camps for their kids. As decision time approaches, many people are weighing the merits of camps which provide computer training along with the handicrafts and swimming lessons. This authoritative report tells what to look for in a computer camp, and how to match

your child with the one that's going to produce the best vacation experience.

## GAME OF THE MONTH: TYCOON

Think you're a budding Rockefeller or Getty? Blue Chip Software has a rock-solid financial simulation that'll give you a pretty good chance to find out, and have some fun at the same time. Next month, EG talks with the game's designer and gets the inside story of this unusual financial simulation.

**There'll be plenty of other exciting  
articles and features of interest to  
arcaders, plus these regular columns:**

- |                         |                  |                     |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| ★ Passport to Adventure | ★ Switch On!     | ★ Stand-Alone Scene |
| ★ Q&A                   | ★ New Products   | ★ Playing It Smart  |
| ★ Inside Gaming         | ★ Test Lab       | ★ In Control        |
| ★ Arcade America        | ★ Readers Replay | ★ Strategy Session  |
| ★ Software Showcase     | ★ EG Hotline     | ★ Insert Coin Here  |
| ★ Programmable Parade   | ★ Games Library  | ★ Articles of War   |



So watch for the  
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of **ELECTRONIC GAMES**  
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